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Meadowlark

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 3, Number 1

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IOS Illinois Ornithological Society

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Letter from the editor

Never in its history has bird banding been more controversial. The age-old practice of fitting birds with tags to track their movements is currently juxtaposed between the old-time recreational bird banders and a new breed of scientifically driven banders. While we must not forget the years of dedicated banding work by such Illinois legends as the late and beloved Karl Bartel, we must now consider the fact that to help protect avian species, we need more science in banding.

For instance, Dr. Scott Robinson's banding work in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois is providing new insights on neotropical migrants. What he and his team of researchers are learning will illuminate why neotropical migrant species' numbers are declining and what needs to be done to solve the problem. Meanwhile, Leslie and Dennis DeCourcey are working at the Chicagoland Bird Observatory, Illinois' newest bird-banding station, to gain specific information on migratory patterns of passerines. Their work may provide more clues about Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism.

In this issue, we explore the changing world of bird banding in Illinois as well as the nation. We indeed owe a great deal of respect to the endeavors of recreational bird banders. But it is time for bird banding to move in a new direction. What is most important today is the need for banding with a more clearly defined scientific purpose - one which could insure protection of avian species that migrate through and breed in Illinois.

Sheryl De Vore

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Meadowlark art editor **Denis Kania** drew the cover illustration of a Least Bittern with young. Champaign County had its first documented breeding record for this species the summer of 1993. Kania has exhibited his drawings at the Midwest Birding Symposium and most recently has had his works published by the Illinois Nature Conservancy. He accepts commissioned work and can be contacted at: 1536 Preston Road, Naperville, IL 60563.

MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

Here we go - into our third year! We began IOS with a clear decision to invest most of our energy and resources into producing *Meadowlark*. We have accomplished our goal of providing you with a timely, high-quality publication. Each issue is a testament to the abilities and hard work of all those involved. We remain committed to pursuing the standards of excellence we have set in publishing the journal.

Now it is time to invest more energy into other important matters which will help strengthen our membership. We are organizing annual meetings, marketing and membership drives, journal mailing parties, fund raisers, and field trips.

In the last two years, some dedicated people have worked to "hold down the fort." Now it is time for others to get on board. We are reaching out to those members who want to help build IOS into an even stronger birding society. Please help us in the future refinement of this organization. Hope to see you in the field soon.

Eric Walters

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Articles

- Bird Banding: Its Changing Role in Illinois and the Nation** 2
Recreational banding is being replaced by more purposeful research
- Christine Philip
- A Tale of Two Colonies** 7
Ring-billed Gulls struggle against predation in Will and Grundy counties
- Joe B. Milosevich
- Feathers in the Attic** 10
Old barn provides nesting site for Turkey Vultures
- Karen Forcum

Departments

- Bird Finding Guide** 12
Middlefork River Valley: Part I
- Steven D. Bailey
- Feeder Station** 17
Backyard Nesters
- Sue Friscia
- Seasonal Highlights/Breeding Season 1993** 18
Breeding Evidence
Black-necked Stilt, Long-eared Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher,
Loggerhead Shrikes and Upland Sandpipers
New Breeding Records
Solitary Vireo, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird,
Least Bittern, Blue Grosbeak
- Field Notes** 24
Breeding Season 1993
- Vernon M. Kleen

Bird Banding

Its Changing Role in Illinois and the Nation

By Christine Philip

One of the almost mythical figures of Chicagoland birding, Alfred H. Reuss, Jr. often tells the story of how he and his friend, the late Karl E. Bartel, set up their banding nets in Oak Hill Cemetery in Blue Island and caught 100,000 birds between 1934 and 1940. Reuss said he would watch as Bartel climbed the water tower in the cemetery and banded nestling Barn Owls. Between them, Reuss and Bartel banded at least 1 million birds in the Blue Island area alone. Bartel had attained his 60th year of bird banding before his death last year; Reuss reached his 60th anniversary in April.

Bird banding as Reuss and Bartel knew it is quickly changing. Soon the so-called backyard or recreational bird banders will be completely replaced by scientists pursuing specific research questions that can only be answered by tracking the movements of banded birds. Within five years, the only new federal permits likely to be issued by the Office of Migratory Bird Management in Laurel, Maryland, will be to field biologists at approximately 100 stations nationwide, each participating in tightly organized and standardized banding research.

Nearly 200 years ago, John James Audubon became perhaps the first of many similarly curious North American bird watchers who set up traps and nets to catch birds, mark them for future identification, and release them back into the wild. Early in his career, Audubon wondered if the Eastern Phoebes nesting along a

creek at his home, Mill Grove, near Philadelphia would return to the same site next year. To find out, he tied silver thread around the legs of the nestling phoebes. Researchers speculate that Audubon may have had a band recovery from the phoebe brood, but what conclusions he drew from his data and how he used the information remains unclear.

“The permitting process is getting tighter and tighter. It’s much harder for new banders to get a permit.”

More recent banders include Frances Hamerstrom who became interested in birds by observing the chickadees in her garden. When Hamerstrom found she could not keep the identically patterned chickadees straight in their frequent comings and goings to her feeding station, she devised a way to catch the birds and tie different colored threads to their wings. The chickadees were exceedingly adept at removing knotted threads, so Hamerstrom began experimenting with colored leg bands.

For years, many Illinois bird banders such as Reuss and Bartel

worked independently, setting up nets at locations of their choice, after being trained and securing a banding permit from the migratory bird office. They are often called “recreational” banders because they are not part of a specific scientific research project. The majority are dedicated, careful volunteer observers who contribute valid data to the body of knowledge being amassed. But they often do not publish results of their efforts in scientific journals or work to answer specific research questions. Most exclusively band non-game birds only during migration. They do not always follow the aging, sexing, and measurement guidelines set out by the migratory bird office.

The most extreme of these recreational banders are the “bird golfers,” who set up their nets opportunistically, choosing locations they think might “up their score” and increase the number of species (hopefully rare species) they can add to their banded bird list. Their data is perhaps the least valuable of any banders because they are not tracking the movement of birds in a single, selected location for a specific time period.

The more careful recreational birders such as Reuss faithfully copy their data and send it in hard copy to the Maryland permitting office. But, said Reuss, “The permitting process is getting tighter and tighter. It’s much harder for new banders to get a permit.” Reuss was not happy when the migratory bird management office informed him that within five years



ers in Illinois are actively banding; nor can it report how many birds were banded and

tific data collection is permitted in a well-organized network of scattered banding stations nationwide.

Peter Dring of the Little Red School House in Cook County's Palos

Lee Johnson of the Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station in Rockford sets up a mist net. Photo by Ruth Little.

how many recoveries were received from Illinois.

The office is redefining its goals. "We're here to accept the data banders provide by mandate of the Migratory

Forest Preserve, sees that happening in Illinois. The Northeastern Illinois Bird Banding Association, a social and educational organization, disbanded as people aged or loss interest. Banders are also recognizing that "the federal government really want results nowadays to justify their work and the more independent bird bander is getting squeezed out," said Dring.

all new permits issued will require that bird banders submit all data on computer disk.

Data Crunching

But Danny Bystrak, a staff biologist at the migratory bird management office, said computerization "will be a godsend for us." Computerized data submissions will enable the office to handle five times the data with half the current staff. The office, which issues 2,000 permits can not keep up with the data that must be manually entered regarding the 1.1 million to 1.2 million birds banded yearly in the U.S. Nor can it easily process the average yearly band recovery on 50,000 birds.

The office also can not easily tell, except through laborious paper work and slow computer data retrieval, which of the 112 permit hold-

Bird Treaty between the U.S. and Canada. Thus far, that is the extent of our duties. There is a popular myth among bird banders that they are volunteers for the government and are doing the migratory bird office a service by providing all this data. "But that's wrong," said Bystrak. "We deal with the data because we have to, not because the information is intended to be used for some purpose."

All the data the office receives for banded birds, except for that from a few specific projects is "purely recreational, non-necessary, and non-useful," he said. "Frankly, the permitting office is trying to discourage random backyard bird banding. In the future, we will probably see a big increase in the amount of non-game bird banding going on, but it will be purposeful, organized, and standardized across the country."

Bystrak said America is likely to move to the point where only scien-

Illinois Banding and Research Projects

Most Illinois banding is now associated with research projects, said Vernon Kleen of the Illinois Department of Conservation. "Project bird banding is very necessary now to help us answer many conservation questions in the state. We need specific data to answer very specific questions," said Kleen, noting that in 1990, there were 49 master permits, 34 subpermits, and 8 institution permits issued in Illinois.

The Chicagoland Bird Observatory in Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in DuPage County, near Argonne National Laboratory, is one the state's newest banding stations. It was established in 1990 by Dennis DeCoursey and his wife, Leslie, as a federal Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship project known as MAPS.

This color-banded Kentucky Warbler was mist netted in Union County during nesting bird research done by Dr. Scott Robinson and a team of researchers in southern Illinois. Bird banding is becoming more and more a part of the scientific process in the state and the nation. Photo by Todd Fink.



MAPS has narrow objectives and strict reporting standards to compare nationwide the migratory patterns of North American passerines. At the Chicagoland Bird Observatory, monitoring is done on passerine migration in second growth deciduous forest. With 200 meters of nets, the DeCourceys and their volunteers are not in the most productive area in terms of the number of birds netted and banded, but they have been able to clearly document trends in migratory populations as well as breeding birds.

More banding research at the Chicagoland Bird Observatory may help explain why the nets in this particular part of the DuPage County Forest Preserve have only caught one Brown-headed Cowbird in four years, despite rampant parasitism by cowbirds throughout the rest of the county.

An unfortunate phenomenon the observatory's nets have revealed is the probable eating of netted birds by the area's burgeoning deer popu-

lation. The DeCourceys have found an Ovenbird, a catbird, and an Indigo Bunting in the nets which showed signs of having been eaten by deer. Saliva samples from the bodies are being analyzed for confirmation. The DeCourceys' research may corroborate data from Scotland on bird eating by nutritionally stressed deer there and may have implications for deer management in a county suffering from severe deer overpopulation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Scott Robinson, director of the Wildlife Division of the Illinois Natural History Survey is using bird banding during the breeding season to census bird populations more accurately than ever before. He is also attempting to answer specific questions about the dispersal of young birds in a given area after fledging. His research in the Shawnee National Forest is documenting with frightening clarity the affects of forest fragmentation on breeding woodland birds, with serious implications for future land conservation in the state, especially regarding logging prac-

tices (See *Meadowlark*: Vol. 2, No. 1).

Natural history survey researchers collectively band several thousand birds during the breeding season from early May to early August. Mist nets are set up in virgin, clear-cut, second-growth, and selectively logged forest areas. Birds are fitted with both standard aluminum leg bands and a unique combination of colored leg bands to enable field observers to track bird movement without recapture.

Through mist netting the researchers are seeing far more breeding birds than had previously been recorded by song census. "When you rely on bird song to census an area, you can really over-census the non-mated birds in an area, who are singing their heads off to attract a mate," said Robinson. "The breeding birds are much too busy raising young to sing," he said. "Mist netting and banding shows a more accurate picture of how many birds are really using an area and documents the movements

of the young of consecutive broods within an area.”

Robinson’s banding research has also found, for example, that young birds are frequently chased out of good habitat by their parents who are often occupied with a second brood and don’t need additional competition for food. Young birds hatched that season are forced into marginal habitat, which is often shrubby, second-growth forest. The brushy understory of selectively logged areas and second growth clearings, however, often provides good protection from predators, even if the food is inferior.

Bird banding research in the Shawnee has demonstrated the adverse effects of forest fragmentation through logging. Through comparisons of bird banding surveys in various areas of logging in the forest, Robinson has been able to show clearly the negative impact fragmentation has had on forest dwelling birds. Banding is providing evidence that the purchase and preservation of large, contiguous, unbroken tracts of habitat are essential to protect the state’s avian breeding populations.

Robinson added that through breeding season banding, he and his researchers are finding that neotropical migrants are living longer than expected. “This fact changes the models we’ve been using to determine population dynamics the number of young which must be successfully raised to sustain a given population,” said Robinson.

Banding also yields valuable data about where local birds are going later during migration. No real information exists on where Illinois’ breeding birds are wintering, said Robinson.

Robinson’s data on recoveries of bands from birds combined with netting programs on wintering grounds in neotropical climates is helping scientists understand the complete life cycle of birds. “When you band only during migration, you can’t begin to tell where the birds are from and where they’re going,” he said.

Veteran bander Lee Johnson has some concerns about the “scientification” of bird banding and the movement away from migration banding toward breeding bird band-

ing. Johnson founded one of the nation’s largest banding stations 25 years ago, the Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station in Colored Sands Forest Preserve near Rockford in Winnebago County. He and his volunteer staff band some 7,000 birds per year in spring and autumn, using 100 mists, a mile long and spanning riparian bottomland forest, shrubby undergrowth, and open fields.

“Banding breeding bird populations?” said Johnson. “Don’t the federal guys know how much that’s going to disrupt the normal activities of these birds? How are they going to band all the birds breeding in Canada? This kind of a move is based on a complete lack of knowledge. You get a bunch of college-educated guys with some laboratory-bred ideas about what to do and how to do it, but they have no practical experience in the field.”

It is not entirely clear what the future of bird banding in Illinois and North America will be. It does seem apparent, though, that a greater emphasis on bird banding with a specific purpose is the likeliest outcome. For the sake of the birds, perhaps a



*Education is one goal of the Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station in Rockford. Here, Tom Little affords some youngsters a closer look at a banded bird.
Photo by Ruth Little.*

scientific, controlled approach is most prudent. With precious little time left to save the declining bird numbers nearly every banding effort nationwide is reporting, there is an urgent need for specific, concrete information on where birds are breeding, how many are surviving, where birds are wintering, and how they are getting there.

But as technology becomes increasingly complex and the reporting standards get ever tighter, spare a thought for the old timers, who learned what they know from thousands of volunteer hours spent in the field, tending nets and hand recording data.



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Downers Grove, IL 60515

For more information on bird banding in Illinois, contact the following stations.

Guided tours are available at some of these stations.

Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station, Rockford,
Lee Johnson 815-965-3433

Chicagoland Bird Observatory, Brookfield,
Dennis DeCoursey 708-387-9265

Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Dundee,
Bob Montgomery 708-428-6331

For other information on bird banding, contact:

The Inland Bird Banding Association; Peter Lowther, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496.

Applications for membership may be sent to the treasurer, Tom Bartlett, 3443 East County Rd., #36, Tiffin, OH 48883. Members receive The North American Bird Bander, a journal of the Eastern, Inland, and Western Bird Banding Associations.

“Game bird banding is well-documented”

Much of the banding done nationwide focuses on game birds in order to help state and federal authorities determine hunting limits on migratory waterfowl and for refuge management purposes. This banding is detailed and well-documented, said Bob Montgomery, senior staff biologist at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation near Dundee in McHenry County.

The privately funded wildlife organization employs bird banding for several long-term research projects on Wood Ducks (27 years) and Mourning Doves (26 years). Much work is also being done on Canada Geese, including a project last year that monitored brood amalgamation among Canada Geese. Scientists placed wing tags on goslings in the nest and charted the combination of broods by adult Canada Geese.

As a result of waterfowl banding, a clearer picture on Canada Geese populations that breed and winter in Illinois is emerging. For instance, banding work has shown that the population using the Mississippi Flyway is largely discrete, with little intermingling with other groups. Migrant Canada Geese wintering in southern Illinois breed along the western shores of James and Hudson bays and in Manitoba and Ontario. The familiar colored neck bands seen on hundreds of Canada Geese in Illinois are testimony to the intense banding efforts used to monitor the goose population.

Nationwide, 30 percent of all birds banded and 70 percent of all those recovered are game birds such as Canada Geese, according to Danny Bystrak of the Office of Migratory Bird Management in Laurel, Maryland. “It seems hunters are returning the bands of game birds killed with some regularity,” he said.



Ring-billed Gull at nest with two eggs, 13 May 1993, Heidecke Lake (Collins Station Cooling Lake), Grundy County. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

A Tale of Two Colonies

Ring-billed Gulls struggle against predation in Will and Grundy counties

by Joe B. Milosevich



During the summer of 1993, I confirmed the breeding of Ring-billed Gulls in Grundy and Will counties, both located on a dike with no public access in a Commonwealth Edison cooling lake that borders a major waterway. While photographing and observing the birds, I learned of the hardships this species encounters when struggling against predation.

Young Ring-billed Gull at Dresden Nuclear Plant cooling lake, Will County. This was one of three young observed on the lake near the newly established colony. 1 July 1993.

Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Grundy County

On 23 April 1993, I located nine Ring-billed Gull nests with eggs on a dike in the Commonwealth Edison Collins Station cooling lake in eastern Grundy County. While identification of this colony represented the first documented breeding record of its kind for Grundy County, it was nevertheless, much anticipated and made somewhat after the fact.

I had long suspected that gulls might be nesting at this location, but my past on-site observations had been primarily restricted to the winter months watching concentrations of waterfowl and gulls. However, with the cooperation of Commonwealth Edison, I recently had been able to gain access to the cooling lake more frequently, which eventually led to a chance meeting with an employee

who confirmed what I had suspected. "Seagulls" had, in fact, nested at Collins Station and the old nests placed among the rocky slopes of one of the dikes seemed to verify his claim. During our conversation, he also mentioned that the eggs in these nests had disappeared for some unknown reason. I was soon to realize just how prophetic his statement was.

The Ring-billed Gull colony was located behind the power plant on an east/west dike near the Illinois River. The dike was .9 mile long and 30 feet wide at the top. At the dike's western deadend was located a circular turnaround. It was near this more isolated tip that the colony was established. At its peak, the colony ran .1 mile along the north and south slopes of the embankment. The wide drive atop this dike went unused for nesting, and therefore provided a way in which the entire colony could be ob-

served and photographed from inside a car without creating major disturbance to the nesting gulls. The gulls proved very reluctant to leave their nests and were always quick to return if initially startled.

How often Commonwealth Edison employees went to the colony dike is unknown. It is, however, off limits to individuals engaged in recreational activities in the eastern portion of the cooling lake. This part of the lake is managed by the Illinois Department of Conservation as the Heidecke Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area next to Goose Lake Prairie State Park. Because Heidecke Lake is a well-known location, I have referred to this Ring-billed Gull colony as the Heidecke Lake colony, although the Collins Station colony would be more accurate.

Beginning in late April and ending in early July, I conducted nest counts at the Heidecke Lake colony on seven dates and took egg tallies on five of these same dates. Individual nest totals listed herein are also broken down into the north and south slope subtotals as follows: 9 nests (1N,8S) 23 April; 66 nests (7N,59S) 30 April; 154 nests (41N/113S) 13 May; 208 nests (48N/160S) 24 May; 162 nests (55N/107S) 9 June; 51 nests (17/34S) 22 June; 2 nests (0N/2S) 6 July.

While some of the Ring-billed Gull nests were very bulky, most were modest-sized accumulations of dried weedy stalks with a few white feathers. Other materials such as plastic and corn husks were also utilized in nest building. The somewhat untidy appearance and irregular shape of most nests were no doubt dictated in part by the physical characteristics of the rocky niches selected for nest building. A few eggs were laid in scrape sites with little or no surrounding nest material.

Nests in which the contents could be seen contained one to three eggs, except for two nests noted 24 May which contained four eggs each. The oval-shaped eggs were olive or greenish white and covered with irregular brown and gray overlaid blotches.

Egg count totals and corresponding clutch size averages on five dates were as follows:

17 eggs (9 nests), 23 April = avg. 1.8 eggs/nest

121 eggs (61 nests), 30 April = avg. 1.9 eggs/nest



downy gray chick appeared from beneath an adult that was sitting on the drive atop the dike. On 22 June, I found a featherless chick carcass out of its nest, as well as many scattered nests and broken eggs. In one nest containing two eggs, the bill of a young bird was seen moving about through a pierced hole in one egg. Finally, the one and only chick I observed in a nest was on 22 June.

I am guessing that the declining number of active Ring-billed nests counted after a peak of 208 on 24 May was not due to desertion because the young had fledged. Rather,

Devastating nest predation at the Heidecke Lake Ring-billed Gull colony prevent even a single young to survive. 22 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Ring-billed Gull nest with three eggs at Dresden Nuclear Plant cooling lake, Will County. 15 May 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

249 eggs (122 nests), 13 May = avg. 2.0 eggs/nest

84 eggs (49 nests), 22 June = avg. 1.7 eggs/nest

3 eggs (2 nests), 6 July = avg. 1.5 eggs/nest



While I counted hundreds of eggs during my visits to the Heidecke Lake colony, I observed evidence of young on only four occasions. The one and only live young I saw out of a nest was observed 9 June. This

these declining tallies instead probably reflected the catastrophic impact of repeated predator disturbances at the colony. Egg production and clutch sizes experienced similar declines after peaking in May. By 6 July, only two nests with eggs and a

Meadowlark



*Ring-billed Gull colony at Dresden Nuclear Plant cooling lake near Lorenzo, Will County. 15 May 1993.
Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.*

mere handful of Ring-billed Gulls could even be found on the colony dike.

Will County

On 30 April 1993, I observed approximately 50 Ring-billed Gulls on the center dike of the Dresden Nuclear Plant cooling lake near Lorenzo in southwestern Will County. Some of these gulls appeared to be paired and defending territory. In fact, on 5 May, a few gulls were horizontally positioned on the embankment as though they might have been sitting on nests. Unfortunately, in both instances, the distant viewing conditions did not permit confirmation of breeding.

I was given special permission by Commonwealth Edison for on-site entry to the Will County portion of the cooling lake on 15 May. The center dike was approximately 1.7 miles long and connected to the shoreline only at its western end along County Line Road. I walked about 1.5 miles before reaching the colony site, which was near the dike's circular turnaround tip.

The colony site was about 80

yards long and 20 feet wide (the width of the top of the dike). I found 20 nests; 16 contained eggs, four had none. The exact egg/nest count was as follows: one egg (two nests), two eggs (six nests), and three eggs (eight nests). In a cluster of seven nests near the middle of the colony, two were as close as 1 foot apart, but most were typically 3 or more feet apart. Nests located on the east/west fringes of the colony were more dispersed. The nests were all built in low, scattered vegetation (common cinquefoil, tall goldenrod, yellow sweet clover) atop the dike. Most nests were neat circular constructions largely composed of finer materials, which gave them a soft, somewhat spongy appearance. Larger stems and stalks were also used in nest building. The gulls quickly returned to these nests after I departed the immediate area.

I decided to make only one return visit late in the nesting season to minimize disturbance. The waist-high vegetation I encountered at the colony site made observations very difficult on 1 July. A brief, incomplete search produced five nests with eggs. Four contained one egg each

and one nest had two eggs. Well-worn paths of matted-down vegetation leading to the dike's rocky shoreline were found near the middle of the colony. I also observed three fledged young swimming away from the dike's southern shoreline. A pair of small young was carefully monitored by a swirling group of 20 to 25 Ring-bills which hovered over the young birds as they moved farther out onto the lake. A single, slightly larger young bird was protected by a pair of dive-bombing adults.

My limited observations made it difficult to evaluate the breeding success of the colony. Some eggs found on 1 July in the water-soaked nests were cracked, broken, or punctured. These eggs suggested possible predation, egg infertility, nest abandonment, or even late (second) nestings. No larger juvenile-plumaged Ring-bills were observed on 1 July.

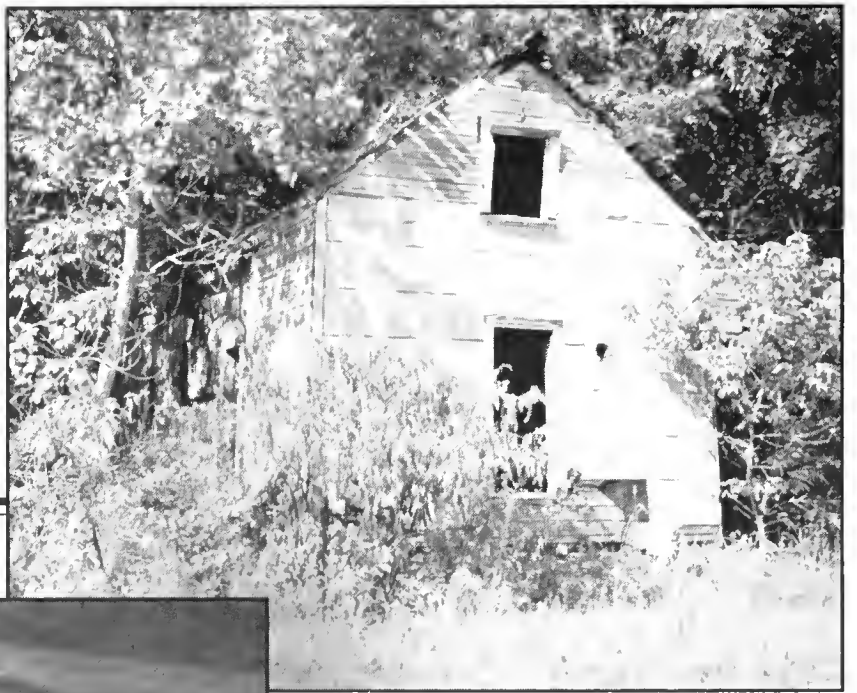


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Feathers in the Attic

Old barn provides nesting site
for Turkey Vultures

by Karen Forcum



This old barn in Mode provided the perfect spot for a pair of nesting Turkey Vultures the summer of 1992. Photo by Karen Forcum.

These young Turkey Vultures were born in a barn in rural Mode, the summer of 1992. Photo by Karen Forcum.

I grew up in the old farm house in rural Mode where my father was born. It was in the middle of nowhere, some might say. It was next to heaven as far as I was concerned. It was here that I learned of many of the wonders of nature.

What a thrill to hear the chilling call of a screech owl as Grandma tucked me into the feather bed, and to know I was safe and snug. No wonder was greater than the tiny nest of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird hid in the middle of a honeysuckle bush. I often found two marble-sized eggs nestled in its soft confines. I watched the Barn Swallows trying to toll their young out of the safe nest and into the big world. Would they fly or fall? I didn't realize then that I would feel the same fear I imagined they felt

when I had to move away from the old house and face my own new world.

My greatest thrill in early spring was catching the first glimpse of a Turkey Vulture effortlessly winging its way north. This was the true harbinger of spring. I never tired of watching these graceful, powerful creatures, rarely flapping, occasionally teetering, wings held dihedral, soaring across the blue expanse of sky. When they caught a thermal updraft, it seemed like they gained altitude until they climbed up past the sky. They are known to soar to heights of 5,000 feet.

I often go back to the skeletal remains of that old home place rejoicing that Dad allowed it to remain standing. On March 26, 1992, my husband and I were birding near the

old home place in Clarksburg Township. As we approached the house, poised majestically on top was a pair of Turkey Vultures. Spring had arrived.

We noticed that the pair frequented the vicinity of the old house; that they seemed to have staked a claim to it. One day Dad brought a flashlight and climbed into the rickety attic. There on the bare floor were two creamy white, blotched with brown, vulture eggs. We knew to insure their safety we should not frequent their nest site. Both sexes incubate the eggs 38 to 41 days.

On May 8, the eggs had hatched and one parent was brooding young. The adult flew out the window onto a nearby limb and regurgitated a foul smelling mass that looked like raw liver. It would take a brave soul to stick around in the face of that onslaught. We promptly took our leave.

The adults feed almost entirely on carrion, fresh to putrid. As summer wore on, the smells from the attic assured us it was mostly putrid! Parent vultures feed their young by re-

gurgitating pre-digested food. The young insert their bills into the mouth of the parent and drink the soupy food. They absolutely gorge themselves.

The Turkey Vulture performs a useful sanitation service by cleaning up dead animals. They usually hunt about 200 feet above the ground or just above the tops of the woods. Dad, in his eagerness, began to pick up road kill for the over-worked parents of our ungainly pair. Mom only hoped nobody would see him at this grisly task. Dad would place his contributions at the edge of the clearing near the old house. The parent vultures gladly accepted his offerings.

Dad set limits on how often we could go into the house and take a peek. We had to be quick, and once every two weeks was deemed often enough. At first we beheld two little frightened white fluff balls covered in the corner of the attic. The amazing

part was how they hissed. It sounded as if a hot air balloon was getting ready to take off, or that we had stumbled upon a den of rattlesnakes.

The youngsters grew quickly and we could soon see a trace of black feathers. Their naked gray heads contained large dark eyes and huge bills. Their feet and legs seemed sturdy and awkward. It was obvious that they were exploring the attic because old rags and paper were dragged from all corners and scattered about. One wall was white washed by their efforts to find a suitable bathroom.

Before long, when we came for a visit, our young Turkey Vultures would meet us at the top of the stairs. They would stand swaying back and forth, stamping their feet as if dancing, flapping their black and white wings, and hissing at the top of their lungs. Their breaths would turn away the hardest of souls! No wonder they survived.

On July 26 both parents and young were perched on the roof. The young fly when 70 to 80 days old. Our baby vultures flew on July 29 at the age of 82 days. All four soared over the river bottom and over the bluff where the old house stands. We imagined that they tipped their wings thanking us for such a wonderful summer home. We watched with joy at their success, but felt sadness too that no longer would we be part of their lives.

How fitting that the old house I grew up in and where I acquired my deep love of and appreciation for nature has many years later served a useful and exciting purpose.



Karen Forcum
Box 247
Mode, IL 62444

Turkey Vulture and nestlings drawing by Leslie A. DeCourcey.



Middlefork River Valley

by Steven D. Bailey

Toward the end of May 1987, I was packing for a three-week trip to Montana when I received a call from a friend and birding companion, Marilyn Campbell. She had just gotten a call from two other birders who were fairly certain they had just seen several Mississippi Kites at Kennekuk Cove County Park northwest of Danville. She asked if I wanted to confirm the sighting.

I was able to get to the park just before dark. I checked a couple of areas where the bird had been seen, but I was only able to get a brief glimpse of a distant bird that could have been a Mississippi Kite. It also might have been a Northern Harrier. When I returned from my trip more than three weeks later, I learned that virtually every other birder within 100 miles had viewed up to nine sub-adult kites (Vermilion County's first record) practically right up to the day of my return, when they disappeared almost as suddenly as they appeared.

But I did get another chance. A few years later I was able to add this elegant bird to my county list when I observed another sub-adult less than a mile from the first sighting across the river in the Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area.

The Middlefork River Valley provides some of the best birding opportunities in east-central Illinois. Although parts of the valley have been extremely altered due to strip mining, several fine natural areas offer habitat to a wide variety of birds.

These include three state nature preserves and a national historical (archeological) landmark, as well as the Middlefork River itself, 17 miles of which have been designated as Illinois' first and only state and national scenic river. All of these areas are found within a corridor of state and county parks bordering the Middlefork River.

Part 1 of this guide will explore the Kickapoo State Park and Middlefork River Valley complex. Part 2, to be published in a forthcoming issue, will guide birders through Kennekuk Cove County Park.

Kickapoo State Park

Breeding warblers, vireos, and woodpeckers are the highlight at this state park. To get there, take Interstate 74 to the Oakwood/Potomac exit (exit 206) and turn north. Go 1 mile to the Kickapoo State Park turn-off, then east 2 miles to the park's west entrance. This 2,800-acre area was strip mined from 1850 until the late 1930s. The current vegetation along with some plantings are the result of natural regeneration. The park has trails, camping sites, and boat and canoe rental.

Just past the entrance to the north is a parking lot. At the Cypress Day Use Area you can obtain a park map at the large wooden map near the main road. You may want to check the trees and successional area east of

the parking lot. I have found this to be a productive area for migrants in the spring and fall. Or you may want to walk the old road west of the playground which leads to a small prairie restoration area. If you continue north you will enter a fine oak-hickory-maple forest with a few American beech trees. This is the Middlefork Woods Nature Preserve. In the summer, expect to see all six woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, both tanagers, Kentucky and Cerulean Warblers and, with luck, an Ovenbird or Louisiana Waterthrush.

Another good area, especially for breeding warblers, is the No. 6 Lake Day Use Area. Around the ponds and along the Middlefork River, you can expect five species of flycatcher, including Acadian, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, both orioles, Yellow-throated Vireo, and at least seven kinds of warblers, including American Redstart, Yellow, Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Northern Parula, and Prothonotary. The Pileated Woodpecker is a good possibility.

Much of the remainder of the park, now officially a state recreation area, is heavily used for outdoor recreation. Although the park has 22 ponds ranging in size from .2 to 57 acres, all are deep strip-mined pits, with little or no marshy edge. However, a good day, especially during migration, could produce the Com-

mon Loon (rare), Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, Great Egret (rare), Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard (as well as a small array of other puddle and diving ducks), Red-tailed Hawk, Sora, coot, Belted Kingfisher, all the swallows, Cedar Waxwing (common) and if you're lucky, a Bald Eagle or Osprey.

Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area

To get away from the crowds and see more birds, head north to the Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area. Retrace your way back west out of Kickapoo State Park. At the intersection of 850E and 1870N, turn north along 850E. This becomes 900E as you continue 4 miles to the first entrance of the Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area. When you get to the small brown sign on the west side of the road identifying the site, turn east on 2250N.

The Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area is known for hawks and owls, breeding warblers, and sparrows. On the first annual Middlefork River Valley Christmas Bird Count, 15 species of raptors were tallied, including an incredible five Northern Goshawks, Peregrine Falcon, Long and Short-eared Owls, and a Northern Saw-whet Owl. The many scattered pine plantations and cedars are good places to find the owls, as well as the many grassy fields at dusk and dawn, especially during the winter.

The relative solitude, especially on a cold winter morning, makes this a special place to bird. The 2,700-acre area contains several fine natural sections, as well as brush fields interspersed with a regular ro-

tation of corn and sunflower planted for wildlife. You will find 35 miles of trails for hiking and horseback riding, a non-electric campground, and two canoe access sites on the Middlefork River. An enjoyable way to bird the area would be to take a two-day canoe trip down the Middlefork River from the Higginsville Bridge access site to the Kickapoo State Park access site. Canoes can be rented and

these nocturnal birds is to sit and imitate their calls. Many of my more memorable encounters have been with Barred Owls. They will come as close as it takes to satisfy their curiosity. While sitting behind a large oak tree on the edge of a tall bluff above the Middlefork River one afternoon, I began the, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" Barred Owl call. The owl responded by coming to just 5 feet from the ground and 10 to 15 feet from me. This was not my closest encounter with a Barred Owl, however.

One morning before dawn, while on a spring bird count, I stood in the middle of a gravel road at Kinney's Ford near the Middlefork River. I began giving Barred Owl calls while alternately turning from one side of the road to the other. When I turned in another direction, I found a pair of Barred Owl's talons no more than 2 feet from my face. I immediately fell to the ground, causing the owl to veer off at the last second.

Where 2250N makes a 90-degree turn north (at 1.6 miles) there is an oak-hickory woods, good for breeding Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, and Summer Tanager. At 1.8 miles you will see the equestrian campground to the west. There, you can park near the brown pavilion and walk back to the intersection where you will see two large boulders blocking car access to an old road. You can walk this road for a few miles along the Middlefork River. Northern Parula, Yellow-throated, and Cerulean Warblers can be found along the river as well as several species of sparrows in the nearby fields. This is also a good area to observe hawks migrating along the river or hunting the fields in other seasons. Back at the intersection,



Barred Owl drawing by Brian Willis.

shuttled to the access sites from the Kickapoo State Park.

The area behind the cemetery, .1 mile east on 2250N, is usually a dependable place to spot a Northern Mockingbird or Eastern Bluebird. Continuing east, you will come to parking area No. 1 (open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closing is 6 p.m. Nov. 15 to May 15). Beginning in late April, you can hear Whip-poor-wills as well as three breeding owls, especially Barred. A Chuck-will's-widow was once heard for several days near the parking entrance gate.

One of the best ways to see

continue north .3 mile to a small parking area and the Bunker Hill Canoe Access site.

Return to 900E and continue north. Watch for Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Kingbird, and Eastern Bluebird along utility lines. A small parking lot just east of the intersection of 900E and 2350N provides another access area from which to hike into the Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area, following the old cinder road leading to and along the river. It is an especially good area during migration. The successional areas are good for Willow (breeding) and Alder (late May-early June), Flycatchers, as well as Mourning and Connecticut Warblers (late May). If you make it to the river, there is a steep, eroding bank where a Bank Swallow colony has nested for several years.

Head back north on 900E to 2400N which faces east toward the river. Look for the large wooden Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area sign and proceed .5 mile to the parking lot south of the road. You may want to use the restrooms here (there also is a phone) since services are limited in the wildlife area. The successional fields just south of the parking lot and north of the skeet-shooting area across the road have been a reliable spot for nesting Bell's Vireos as well as Willow and Alder Flycatchers, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. A trail also starts at the parking lot and leads to a small campground near a pond.

Continuing north on 900E, you will pass a large, old cedar grove on your right. Drive to parking area #6, where the road jogs west. This area is excellent in migration and especially in winter. Long-eared Owls roost here

virtually every winter. Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls have occasionally been found. Barred, Great Horned, and Eastern Screech Owls are permanent residents in the grove or nearby deciduous woods. All three accipiters have wintered here. In early spring, late fall, and winter, this is a good area to find feeding and roosting Brown Creep-



Visitors can enjoy many scenic views like this one while birding the Middlefork River valley in central Illinois. Photo by Steven D. Bailey.

ers, Winter and Carolina Wrens, both kinglets, American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Purple Finches, Fox, Lincoln's, and White-throated Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos.

Following the jog north .6 mile, you will come to parking area #7 on the east side of the road, just before Higginsville Bridge over the Middlefork River. The fields across

from the parking lot and for a mile or so south along the river are the most reliable in the county for breeding Lark Sparrows. The area also is good for Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Field Sparrows.

The main canoe access site to the Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area is just past this parking lot, on the northwest side of Higginsville Bridge. The pine plantation north of the bridge and on around the curve has produced many of the same species as found in the cedar grove mentioned earlier, including the six owls and three accipiters.

For your last stop in the Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area, return south to where the road jogs at the intersection of 900E and 2500N. Turn west along 2500N and go 1.5 miles to the small village of Collison. Just past the railroad tracks, turn north along the main road (720E) through town. After going 1.2 miles, turn right at the first road (2600N) crossing the highway. Go exactly 1 mile to a small parking lot on the north side of the road just before the railroad tracks. The fields and woods are good for migrants.

Just north of the parking area is a bog that provides probably the most unique avian attraction of the Middlefork valley. Each fall, from mid-August to late September, from about 30 to 50 or more Ruby-throated Hummingbirds gather before heading south. This apparently is one of the largest concentrations in the state.

To reach this spot, walk due north from the parking lot about 50 yards, to the edge of the woods and brushy field. Continue north into the woods and down the small but steep

hillside and into the bog. This bog covers several acres and has a dense growth of vegetation, including skunk cabbage, marsh marigold and, the main attraction for the hummingbirds, jewelweed or touch-me-not. You can't miss the numerous yellow or orange pendant-shaped blooms.

Depending on spring and summer precipitation, the area can have several inches of standing water or be practically dry. Bring boots to be safe. My initial discovery of the area was truly a memorable one as I walked among 50 to 75 hummingbirds. Birds were feeding and chasing (up to four at a time) all around me. Several times I was almost hit by the tiny sprites as they buzzed or hovered right in front of my face.

If you continue east past the parking lot and railroad tracks you will see another small parking area (#13) where you can gain access to Collison Marsh, a woodland swamp and bog, much like the hummingbird area, but more extensive. This fine



Northern Harriers are among a host of breeding species visitors may encounter while birding the Middlefork River Valley State Natural Area in central Illinois. This trio of harrier fledglings was photographed by Steven D. Bailey in Kennekuk Cove County Park (which will be featured in a later issue this year).

natural area has no trails, but bring a compass, head south from the parking area, and explore. Various birds breed here including Barred Owl,

Wood Thrush, Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Breeding birds of Kickapoo State Park

All six woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush.

Red-eyed, Warbling, and Yellow-throated Vireos, both tanagers, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, five species of flycatchers including Acadian, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, both orioles, at least seven breeding warblers including American Redstart, Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Northern Parula, Kentucky, and Prothonotary.

Specialty birds found in Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area

Breeding warblers include: Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Blue-winged, Yellow, Yellow-throated, Prairie (rare), Cerulean, Prothonotary, and Kentucky Warblers, American Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat with June records for Black and White, Chestnut-sided, and Hooded Warblers; more than 15 species of sparrows including Lark, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's, and Field (all breeding), as well as Lincoln's, LeConte's, and Clay-colored (in migration).

Other interesting birds include Wood Duck (breeding), Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Wild Turkey, Spotted Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Whip-poor-will, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Bank Swallow, Sedge Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, both tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dickcissel, both orioles, and Carolina Wrens. Brown Creeper, both kinglets, Purple Finches, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Winter Wrens can be found commonly in migration and in winter.

Rare finds have included Least Bittern, Golden Eagle, Mississippi Kite, Yellow Rail, Chuck-will's-widow, Northern Shrike, Connecticut Warbler, Smith's Longspur, and Red Crossbill.

Visitor Information

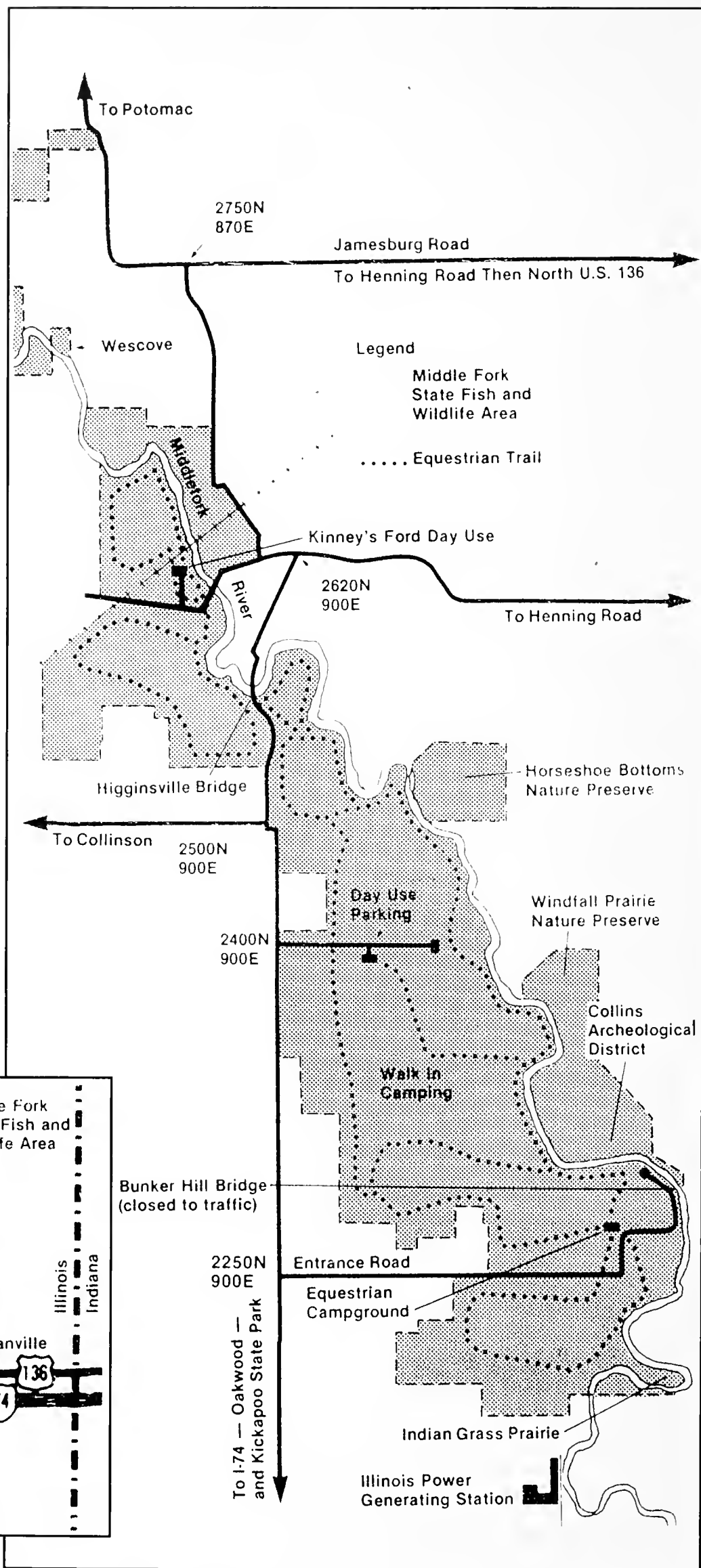
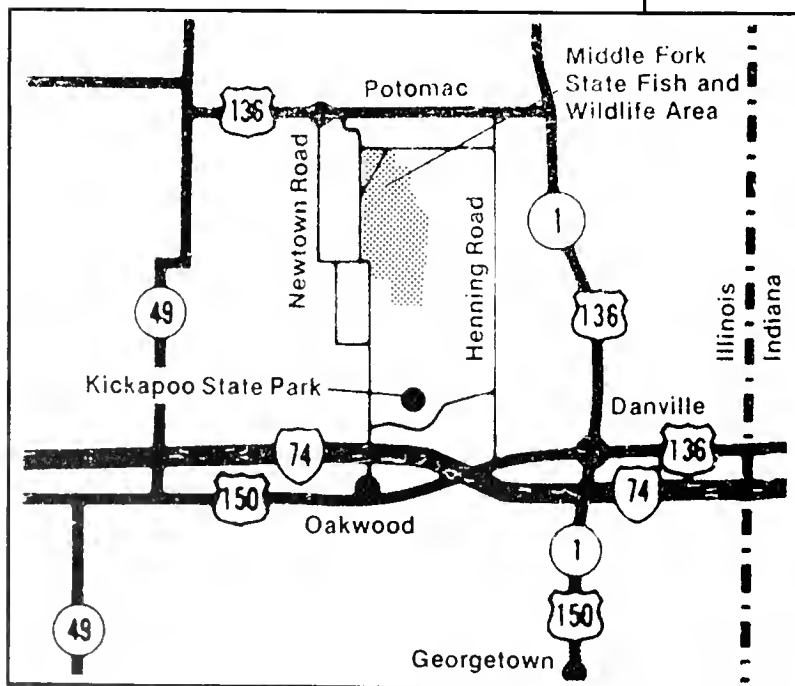
The Middlefork Valley lies about 8 miles west of Danville. You will find many restaurants and motels nearby. Information on the Danville area is available toll free at 800-383-4386. For information concerning Kickapoo State Park or the Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area, contact park headquarters at 217-442-4915. For information on boat or canoe rentals for the Middlefork River, contact Recreation Ventures, R.R. 2, Danville, IL 61832, or call 217-443-4939.

Before planning a trip to the area in the fall, be advised that hunting is allowed. Be sure to bring some type of orange blazed clothing. You may also want to call ahead if you plan to visit the Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area. During the two shotgun deer weekends, the entire park is closed to everyone except hunters.

I hope you have an enjoyable trip to this unique area. I welcome letters or phone calls requesting more information on the beautiful Middlefork River Valley.



Steven D. Bailey
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9 Riverside Ct.
Danville, IL 61832
217-759-7550





Backyard Nesters

by Sue Friscia

Even before I became obsessed with birds, I enjoyed watching the American Robins that nested in my backyard. I documented their progress with photos, but back then I never realized the interesting activity that went on before a nest was constructed.

For instance, when the temperature stabilizes above freezing and the days are just the right length, a male robin starts defining his territory by singing from every corner and chasing away all competition until he attracts a willing female. You can usually tell when a pair has been formed, because one bird, the female, will be much paler than the other.

The next logical step would be copulation, but I have never witnessed this event. Donald and Lillian Stokes confirmed in "A Guide to Bird Behavior" that robin pair formation displays are rarely seen.

Kit and George Harrison, authors of "America's Favorite Backyard Birds" describe robin courtship. The male sings to let the female know his whereabouts. When it is time, she lands near him, chirps softly, and then becomes "submissive" - not a

word of my choosing —I prefer "receptive." The male then joins her and calls excitedly. Then, copulation might occur.

Nest-making comes next. Look for a robin's nest in the fork of a tree or on a building ledge. Careful observation will show that the nest is held together with mud. The inside has a fine lining of delicate grasses and typically contains four light blue eggs. Don't be surprised if you are attacked while approaching the nest; after all you are trespassing.

In 12 to 14 days, the first egg starts to crack. Then the real work starts when both parents must continuously feed their newly hatched family. A robin is born completely naked, but in a mere five days, it will grow its first pin feathers. Five days after that the bird is completely feathered and ready to test his wings.

The most dangerous time for the youngsters is when they leave home; predation is most prevalent then, especially by well-meaning, but uninformed humans who assume a chick is abandoned just because the parents are nowhere to be seen. It is highly likely they are watching from a distance, waiting for your retreat.

The worst thing you can do is bring the bird into your home. It is against the law to possess a native bird without a special permit. Even picking up feathers is illegal. Also, the odds of survival are slim. Typically when folks realize the bird is not responding to their tender loving

care and attempt to bring it somewhere for help, it's too late.

Once a birding friend, Lisa Granbur, who works for a veterinarian found a baby robin left at her office. She noticed the bird was covered with mites. Something had to be done immediately or it would perish. She called me since I have a state and federal wildlife rehabilitation license. We brought the robin to another rehabilitator who dusted the bird with a powder that deters mites and then told us where we could purchase more. We next picked berries and bought a dozen night crawlers which the robin eagerly accepted from a toothpick.

Since it was getting late and we didn't want to release the bird at night, we placed it on the balcony in a cage and left it a good supply of food and water. The next morning, when my friend's roommate, Colleen O'Neill checked on the robin, she was bombarded by two adult birds who must have been attracted by the youngster's cries. They placed the robin under a tree below the window. The adults, probably the robin's parents, stepped right in and began to care for the young robin. The family remained in the area for several days and as far as we know, the youngster fledged.



Sue Friscia,
3417 W. 123rd St.,
Alsip, IL 60658.

Breeding evidence for Black-necked Stilt in Jackson County

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) records for the state are few and mostly recent, although Ridgway (1881, 1889) indicated that the species bred in some Illinois locations. Between 1959 and 1988, there were six records all from the northern two-thirds of the state for this very rare vagrant or migrant (Bohlen 1989).

A sight record for southern Illinois was established in 1992 (DeNeal 1993) when a bird was seen on 3 July at Rend Lake in Jefferson County, followed by a bird seen by Jim Herkert and others at Easter Slough in Pulaski County, 4 -7 July. Interestingly, these first southern Illinois sight records were followed by breeding evidence in 1993.

It began with the sighting of three individuals on 21 and 22 May 1993 by Robert Danley in the Gorham area of the Mississippi River flood plain, Jackson County. Danley later relocated what may possibly have been the same birds about 10 miles south at Grand Tower Island, Missouri. This island is part of Missouri but on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. Up to six birds were seen in the flooded fields outside the levee from 19 June to 7 July 1993. Mark Seiffert saw what he believed to be copulatory behavior on 20 June 1993. Two more stilts were discovered the same day just east of Grand Tower Island in Jackson County on an island in the flooded fields between the Big Muddy and the Mississippi levees.

I suspected that the birds might be breeding on these temporary "islands" in the middle of the flooded fields. On 24 June 1993, Jim Herkert and I canoed to the island and were met by an agitated stilt flying around the island and calling repeatedly. It alighted occasionally only to fly again. We docked the canoe at the north end of the island and walked south. The island was planted last year but this year consisted of a sparse ground cover of mostly early successional forbs with some exposed soil. When we returned to the north end of the island, both birds alighted ahead of us on the mud flats. We searched for a nest and incited one of the birds to exhibit a broken wing act. We approached within 20 feet of the bird. Unable to quickly locate a nest, we retreated, choosing not to disturb the pair.

I revisited the site again on 26 June 1993, but found no stilts. The water level had risen on the island, concurrent with the great flood of 1993, and that may have contributed to site abandonment.

Additional Black-necked Stilts were seen in the area by Steve Bailey. A pair were seen and suspected of breeding in Union County between 30 June and 12 July 1993 although a search could not locate a nest. Eleven individuals were seen in Union and Jackson counties and Grand Tower Island, Missouri, on 7 July 1993. The last sightings of stilts in the area were of four seen north of Gorham, Illinois on 21 August 1993 by Cody Smout and Robert Danley.

Although it is not known whether breeding was successful, the distraction display seen on 24 June 1993 constitutes positive confirmation of a breeding attempt according to the criteria outlined by the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

The closest confirmed breeding records to Illinois are in Missouri (just two counties west of the Mississippi River) and most recently in Kentucky approximately 25 miles southwest of Cairo at the southern tip of Illinois in Fulton County. Southeast Missouri has recorded Black-necked Stilts as breeding birds since 1990. Three nest sites, two of which fledged young, were discovered in southeastern Stoddard County, Missouri in 1990 (Robbins and Easterla 1992) and they have bred there every year since. Their population has increased and in 1993 over 20 individual stilts were seen and two nests found. Predation of these nests was suspected (Jim Smith, pers. comm., Missouri Dept. of Conservation). Kentucky, during the summer of 1993, confirmed its first nesting record of Black-necked Stilt with nests and four pairs of adults, each attending a brood of four chicks at Open Pond on 19 June in Fulton County (Palmer-Ball and Bennett 1993).

— Todd Fink, Rt. 1 Box 220, Ozark, IL 62972

Long-eared Owl breeding evidence in Ogle County

On 19 May 1993 adjacent to Nachusa Grasslands, owned by the Nature Conservancy, we found a dead female Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) in a privately owned pine plantation near Franklin Grove. We examined the bird and found a brood patch indicative of nesting. Brood patches are developed with the loss of feathers of the abdomen, about three to five days before the first eggs are laid, and are a means of transferring as much body heat as

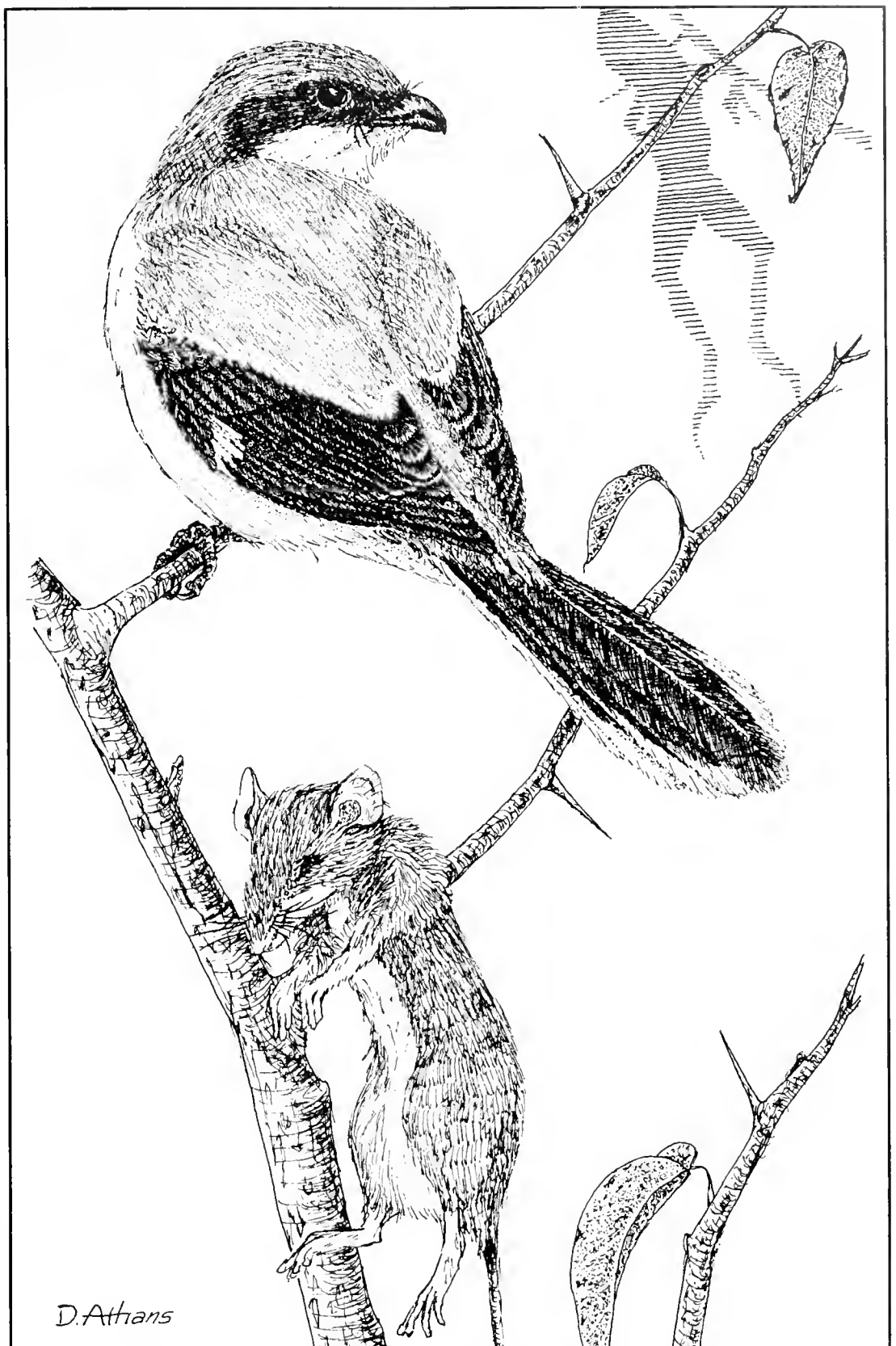
possible to the eggs in a nest.

The bird was a typical Long-eared Owl in all respects; it had a wingspread of approximately 27 inches and was smaller than a Great Horned Owl and larger than an Eastern Screech Owl. It had rusty facial disks and small black wristmark. From above, the bird also lacked the buffy wrists patches conspicuous on a Short-eared Owl. Our specimen photos are on file with the Illinois Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage Division in Springfield and the specimen is located at the Department of Biological Sciences at Illinois State University in Normal.

On 29 May at 9 p.m. we saw a second Long-eared Owl fly over the grassland's recovering sand prairie with a squeaking mouse in its left foot. It flew to the pines where we had discovered the dead female 10 days earlier. This second adult bird may have been carrying food to its young although we did not observe any fledglings during the remaining summer.

Long-eared Owl is a rare breeding species in the state. Bohlen (1989) listed only three positive recent breeding records. (See photo on page 33.)

— Sally and Max Baumgardner,
8986 South Lowden Road, Franklin
Grove, IL 61031



Loggerhead Shrike drawing by David Athans.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Pulaski County

On 10 July 1993 at about noon we were driving approximately 2.8 miles west of Perks, in southern Illinois, when we noticed a very pale kingbird-shaped bird horizontally perched on a power line along a tree-lined country road next to agricultural fields. The bird sallied out to hawk insects, exhibiting a swallow-like tail. We noted that the bird had a generally faded grayish coloration tending toward white on the head and underparts and

darker brownish-gray on the upperparts and wings. The bird had a black bill and a distinct black horizontal line through the eye. The tail extension was about equal to the body length; the longest tail feather on the left side was missing. The missing tail feather and the bird's faded appearance pointed to adult female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) in molt. Our photographs of the bird perched on the power line, are on file at the Illinois Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage Division, Springfield. (See photo on page 34.)

Confirmed breeding records for neighboring states

include one in Dent County, Missouri, approximately five counties west of where the Mississippi River runs through southern Illinois (Robbins and Easterla, 1992). Mumford and Keller (1984) mentioned a 1976 successful nesting in Daviess County, southern Indiana (the nest was located in a cornfield's lone sycamore) just two counties east of the Wabash River and Illinois. Although there are no positive breeding records for Illinois, the chances are good that it will not be long before the state has its first breeding confirmation of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

— John and Cynthia McKee, 605 9th Avenue,
Ottawa, IL 61350

Loggerhead Shrikes and Upland Sandpipers nest at Joliet Arsenal, Will County

From 1 May through 15 July 1993, Illinois Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage biologists and their staff recorded 11 Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) nests on the 23,500-acre United States Army owned Joliet Arsenal Ammunition Plant property. The nests were located in grazed areas with scattered trees. The nests were found in osage orange, hawthorn, red cedar, and multiflora rose. The stick nests were lined with fine hair. Two nests were abandoned, eight nests fledged young and one nest had unknown success. Loggerhead Shrike is a state-threatened species and is a federal candidate for threatened status.

Fifty-five Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) were also found during a 12-14 May 1993 survey. At least 25 young Upland Sandpipers were fledged by 1 July 1993 (see breeding season field notes). The sandpipers also used the grazed areas at the arsenal. However, these birds nested on the ground in introduced Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome grass. Upland Sandpiper is a state-endangered species.

—William Glass, IDOC Natural Heritage Biologist,
100 First National Bank Plaza, Suite 10,
Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Editor's Note: The Joliet Arsenal Ammunition Plant is being decommissioned, efforts are being made to protect this area for endangered and threatened flora and fauna by the Illinois Department of Conservation, Illinois Audubon, Des Plaines Area User's Coalition, Openlands, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. IOS supports these efforts.

Solitary Vireo breeding evidence in Iroquois County

On a rainy morning, 8 June 1993, I was surveying a recently burned black oak woods in Iroquois County Conservation Area near Beaverville when I noticed a pair of Solitary Vireos (*Vireo Solitarius*) along the side of a road about 20 feet up in the oaks. For 15 minutes I observed the male vireo actively courting the female, displaying vigorously and singing very close to her. He also appeared to twice feed her an insect.

The female carried nest material from perch to perch, picking dead oak twigs, but never took the nesting material to a nest site during my observations. The habitat was recently burned dry sandy woods, a habitat similar to which the two confirmed nesting records for the state were established (Bohlen 1989). Bjorklund (1979, 1980) found two nests at Sand Ridge Forest in central Illinois with both nests failing due to cowbird predation.

The species' closest normal northern breeding range is in upper north-eastern and north-central Minnesota (Janssen 1987), northern Wisconsin (Robbins 1991) and the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan south on the west side of the state to Kalamazoo and Allegan counties (Brewer et al. 1991). Solitary Vireos also breed in the southeastern mountains of Kentucky (Monroe et. al 1988). Recent confirmed nesting records exist for Indiana (Mumford and Keller 1984) as far south as Brown County. Robbins and Easterla (1992) listed only one summer record for Missouri. These observations of Solitary Vireo confirmed another interesting occurrence of extralimital breeding in Illinois.

— Scott Robinson, 607 E. Peabody Dr.,
Champaign IL 61820

New breeding records for Will County

During the 1993 breeding season, I found and photographed definitive evidence of breeding by three species which were previously unknown to have bred in Will County: Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*), and Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). The literature I consulted (Bohlen, 1989; Fawks, 1975; Ford, 1956;

Graber, 1983; Joliet Park District, 1926; and Kleen, 1974, 1984, 1991/92) does contain records from Will County for all three species during various breeding seasons, but there is no mention of nests or young for any of these species. (See separate article for Ring-billed Gull account in this issue: A Tale of Two Colonies.)

Hooded Warbler

While birding Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve near University Park in eastern Will County on 21 June 1993, I flushed a female Hooded Warbler from the forest floor. The female was holding a long strand of nesting material in its bill. The warbler's behavior suggested that it was not merely collecting nesting material, but was attempting to deliver it to a location close to where I stood.

After a cautious search of the immediate area, I located a fairly well-hidden nest 20 inches above the forest floor in multiflora rose. The nest was constructed with bark strips, leaves, and other plant materials; but the finer nest-lining materials were not yet in place and no eggs were inside. The nest appeared surprisingly bulky and unkempt. The placement and construction reminded me of an Indigo Bunting nest, but the white cottony material which covered portions of the outside reminded me more of a Willow Flycatcher's nest.

When I returned on 30 June, the nest contained three white oval-shaped eggs with fine and coarse chestnut spots. The eggs were somewhat wreathed at the larger end. The nest was wet and had lost its cottony appearance.

The Hooded Warbler nest was in an upland oak-hickory section of the preserve bordered on two sides by open fields in varying stages of succession. The nest was only approximately 24 feet from the nearest woodland edge. Some of the more unusual associate species in the immediate vicinity were Veery, White-eyed Vireo, and Blue-winged Warbler.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

My typical drive to work each day takes me past a marshy area of the Rock Run in Joliet and Crest Hill known to local birders as Theodore Marsh. As I drove past the marsh on 28 April 1993, I was surprised to see a male Yellow-headed Blackbird in the marsh south of Theodore Street in Joliet. I returned the next day and observed the male actively calling and chasing Red-winged Blackbirds and Yellow-rumped Warblers out of the west end of this



Male Yellow-headed Blackbird defending fledged young, Theodore Marsh, Will County, first confirmed breeding record for the county. 6 June 1993.

Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

marsh. Clearly, this aggressive male was defending territory.

On 12 May, I observed both a male and female Yellow-headed Blackbird at the same location. I watched the female land near the road where I was standing. About 15 feet through the cattails was a nest-like clump. Donning chest waders I returned on 16 May and found four oval greenish white eggs in the nest. The eggs were heavily marked over the entire surface with brown and gray fine and coarse spots. The nest was attached to a cluster of cattails 20 inches above water. Water depth was 30 inches below the nest.

The nest still contained four eggs on 22 May, but on 6 June it was empty. Heavy excrement on the rim of the nest and the anxious behavior of both adults strongly indicated that fledged young were nearby. Two large young were observed flying short distances in the west end of the marsh on 19 July. While wading this same end of the marsh on 20 July, I not only observed the adults and young again, but also discovered a second Yellow-headed Blackbird nest with one egg. This nest was approximately 100 feet away from the first nest and in an area farther away from the road that supported denser cattail growth. A small puncture in the egg and the nest's poor condition suggested that the nest may have been abandoned. Yellow-heads occasionally have been known to have their nests destroyed by Marsh Wrens, but apparently are also able to recognize this species and exclude it from their own territories (Ehrlich 1988). A male Marsh Wren was heard singing in close proximity to this nest on at least two occasions.

— Joe B. Milosevich, 2337 Ardaugh Ave.,
Crest Hill, IL 60435

New Breeding Records for Champaign County

During the 1993 breeding season, new definitive evidence of breeding was obtained for three species in Champaign County: Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), and Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*).

Least Bittern

On 10 July Myrna Deaton and Richard Palmer from Decatur met me at the Middlefork Forest Preserve in northeast Champaign County to see a Henslow's Sparrow on territory there for the first time in over 30 years. After finding the sparrow, we checked a few other areas including a wet meadow and small pond. Deaton spotted a Least Bittern in some cattails along the edge of the pond. Adult Least Bitterns were observed there on subsequent visits.

On 25 July, having failed to locate any adult bitterns, I walked through wet vegetation along an overgrown side of the pond, where I spotted what initially appeared like three clumps of fluff from cattail heads. When two of the clumps moved, I realized they were in fact downy young Least Bitterns creeping along the cattail stems. I then spotted a third juvenile assuming the classic freeze posture with its bill pointed skyward. The birds were about the same size as recently fledged Red-winged Blackbirds. Although they were mostly covered with down, rusty primaries were emerging. The following weekend, a young Least Bittern barely capable of flight was found on a pond about .25 mile away from the original pond. This may represent a member of a second brood or indicate the rapid development of the young birds. These recently fledged birds are the first confirmed breeding record in Champaign County although the species presumably bred in pre-settlement days.

Least Flycatcher

On 10 July, after watching a Least Bittern with Myrna Deaton at the Middlefork Forest Preserve, I heard the distinct "chebek" call of the Least Flycatcher repeated incessantly, but could not find the bird. The following day, while trying to locate the bittern for Elaine Regehr, I again heard the flycatcher and spotted the singer in a nearby dense thicket of willows, somewhat denser than

the neighboring Willow Flycatchers preferred. While Least Flycatchers are occasionally seen in central Illinois in June and July, they are usually either late spring or early fall migrants.

Despite the very early date, I suspected this was a migrant, since it coincides with a 10 July date for an early migrant (Bohlen 1989). However, on several subsequent visits to see the Least Bitterns, I noticed that the Least Flycatcher persisted in singing as if on territory. Finally, on 25 July, I saw another Least Flycatcher (based on its identical appearance to the male Least, and to its soft "Whit" call, contrasting with the sharper "Wheet" calls of the Willow Flycatcher and "Speet" calls of the Acadian Flycatcher) that seemed anxious. Both adults, also, were carrying food. The female then flew into a dense thicket of willow where there were several young birds begging and crying. I peered in and saw a female feed a fledgling with a very short tail, heavy greenish cast, and brownish wingbars. The male also carried food into the thicket.

Least Flycatchers have not often been recorded in Illinois during the breeding season, and are rarely found in central Illinois. Bohlen (1989) mentioned several summer records but only one recent confirmed central Illinois breeding record from Siloan Springs State Park near Quincy. In late June 1992, two males were located at Iroquois County Conservation Area, just 35 miles north-east of this year's Champaign County site. If mid-summer birds are found in suitable habitat, however, the possibility of breeding should be explored.

Blue Grosbeak

Rick Wright and I began the 10 May 1991 Spring Bird Count at an abandoned gravel pit, overgrown with brush, just south of Mahomet. As we stepped out of our car, a Blue Grosbeak sang. We soon located the bird in a tree just above the car. Since the species is a rare migrant in Champaign County, we were appropriately excited.

Even more exciting was the fact that the Blue Grosbeak remained all summer. There was one record of summering Blue Grosbeaks (a pair and a single male) in the county, but the species had never been confirmed as breeding. In 1991, the male Blue Grosbeak was usually seen alone, but once a female was seen.

The bird had seemingly disappeared from the area by 1992. But when the location was checked on 8 August 1992, a male was seen. Local birders suspected the bird was present all summer.

More attention was paid to this area in 1993 when a male was seen frequently from late May until early August within a fairly large territory (approximately 80 acres but

much of it open water). Frustratingly, no female was found. Then, on 21 August the male had an insect in its bill! It chipped anxiously, refusing to give up that insect. I left for a short while, then returned to see a male and a female, both with insects in their bills, calling anxiously. Weaker but similar calls emanated from the low dense shrubbery nearby. The pair flew into this shrubbery, where they fed two fledgling Blue Grosbeaks, both of which resembled the female except for being smaller, with stubby tails and enlarged gapes. On a December 1993 morning the abandoned nest was seen in a tiny sapling just below the shrubs in which the young had been sitting.

*Robert Chapel, 306 1/2 W. California,
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Editor's note:

Readers are invited to contribute short articles to Seasonal Highlights. The section is designed to add more detail on a seasonal bird observation and can reflect on the significance of this occurrence in the region with references to literature. Highlights can include unusual bird occurrences in the state as well as interesting bird behavior and nesting highlights. Please send two copies of your highlight before or at the end of each season to: 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060.

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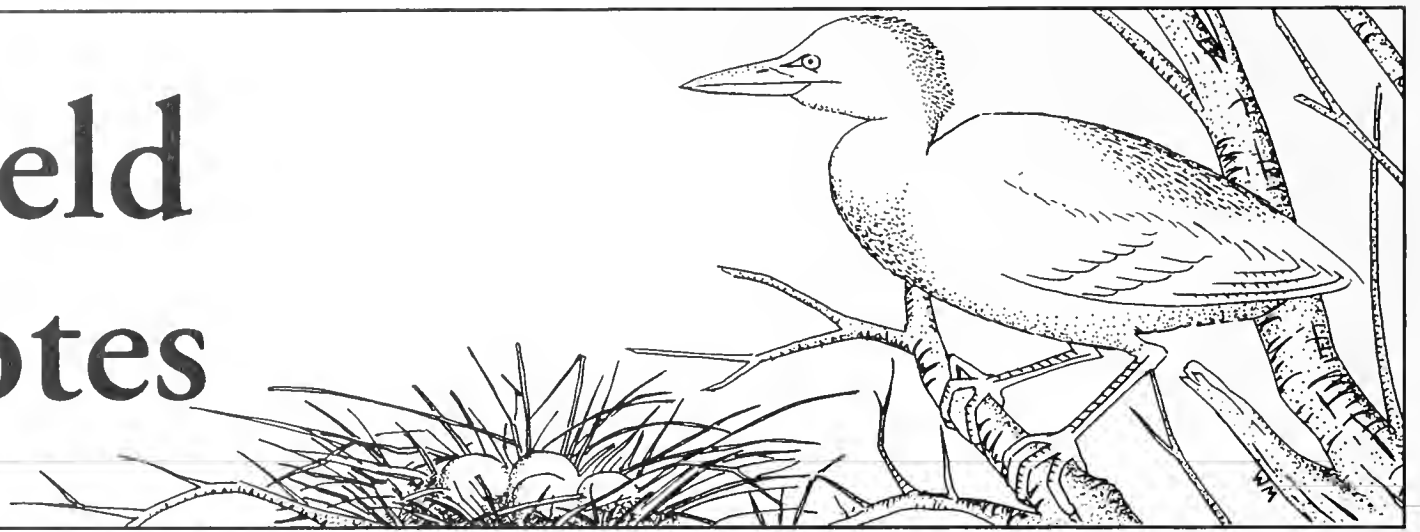
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Field Notes



Cattle Egret drawing by Walter Marcisz.

1993 Breeding Season

by Vernon M. Kleen

The 1993 Breeding Season will be best remembered as the year of "...the greatest flood in North America's modern history." (Illinois State Water Survey). Although the most serious flooding occurred in the Mississippi River bottomlands (primarily where levees broke) and the southern reaches of the Illinois River (backed up from the Mississippi overflow), most all major Illinois rivers experienced flooding during some part of the season. For nesting birds dependent upon the riparian habitats, most damage occurred after the primary nesting season; however, the effects of the prolonged flood action on these habitats and the local nesting populations can only be evaluated in years to come.

For the record, unprecedented rainfall has produced the wettest spring and early summer of the century for the Upper Mississippi River basin (upstream from Quincy). Since April, portions of the basin have received up to twice the normal rainfall; compared to the long-term average, rainfall during April and May was 40 percent higher than average, June rainfall was more than double the average, and July rainfall was 75 percent above average. An extremely heavy wind and rain storm passed through southern Illinois on the morning of 4 June and toppled the young out of at least three of our Bald Eagle nests; another major storm passed through northeastern Illinois on 7-8 June where the rainfall values ranged from "just" 7.60 inches in Des Plaines to 16.46 inches near 120th Street in S. Chicago. The July precipitation varied from more than 10 inches in the extreme east and east-southeast as well as the extreme west (contributing greatly to flooding problems along the Mississippi River) to less than 4 inches in the extreme northeast (Illinois State Water Survey).

Although a cold period developed during June, the average monthly temperature was only 1 degree below normal; during July, the average monthly temperature was 1 degree above normal, varying from just below

normal in the northwest to almost 5 degrees above normal in the far south.

The most intensive breeding season surveys and investigations included the continued monitoring projects in the Shawnee National Forest and forests of northwestern Illinois by Scott Robinson and company; the completion of 81 Breeding Bird Survey routes (an increase of 17 since the program began in 1966) to monitor short-term and long-term population trends; and the ninth annual Cook County Breeding Season Nesting Census. More intensive efforts are expected through the forthcoming Illinois Partners In Flight Program.

Highlights

Breeding season highlights this year (which do not include the late spring and early fall migrants) include the following: the continuing expansion of the **Double-crested Cormorant** population; the presence of a large group of **American White Pelicans**; two new large **Cattle Egret** colonies along the Mississippi River (both flooded out); pairs of **Northern Pintail** and **Gadwall** and a brood of **Northern Shovelers** in Havana; more summer reports of **Ospreys** (perhaps an active nest will soon be located in Illinois after a lapse of 40+ years); seven **Northern Harrier** nests near Bogota; fair numbers of rail, moorhen, and coot broods; **Sandhill Cranes** nesting in Winnebago Co; distraction displays given by **Black-necked Stilts** near a possible nest; expanding colonies of **Ring-billed Gulls**; the July presence of an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and two **Lesser Black-backed Gull** sightings in mid July in Evanston and in late July in Springfield; the June appearance of another **Royal Tern**; three **Barn Owl** nests and two **Short-eared Owl** nestings in southern Illinois; **breeding Long-eared Owls** bordering the Nachusa Grasslands; the continued June/July presence of **Alder Fly-**

catchers indicating probable nesting; a female **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in southern Illinois; excellent numbers of nesting **Loggerhead Shrikes** in Will County; a pair of **Solitary Vireos** in courtship in June; late June records of **Black-throated Green Warblers**; the July presence of a **Nashville Warbler**; the **Blue Grosbeak** and **Summer Tanagers** in Cook County in early June; the breeding **Swamp Sparrows** in Lee County; the first nesting records of **Hooded Warbler** and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Will County; the first nesting record for **Least Flycatcher**; a summer record of **Henslow's Sparrow** in Champaign County; a **Whimbrel** in Decatur in late June.

Acknowledgements

As usual, this compilation is the result of the combined efforts of many observers and reporters and would not have been possible without their dedicated efforts. I am extremely grateful to all Illinois birders who continue to gather this information and make it available for publication, and, especially to those contributors listed below who submitted direct or indirect information. The persons responsible for the records in the accompanying species accounts are acknowledged individually after their records; considerable effort has been made to be sure that all information is correct and that future researchers may conveniently review the permanent record file and find the original source document for every record in this report.

The many observers and contributors for this

report are acknowledged after the corresponding field note by their first initials unless otherwise designated: Alan Anderson; Doug Anderson; Ed Anderson; Mike Adolph; Arlene Brei; Alan Branhagen; David Bohlen; Doug Brown; David Brenner; John Bergstrom; Laurence Binford; Max Baumgardner; Richard Biss; Richard Bjorklund; Ron Bradley; Steve Bailey; Sally Baumgardner; Sharon Batterham (SBh); Steve Byers (SBy); David Cederstrom; Elizabeth Chato; Jim Carpenter; Karin Cassel; Marilyn Campbell; Mike Carpenter (MCA); Margaret Cole (MCo); Robert Chapel; Roger Cox (RCO); Aura Duke; Donald Dann (DDn); Danny Diaz; Larry David; Myrna Deaton; Michael Dani (MDa); Peter Dring; Sheryl De Vore; John Elliott; Sue Elston; Terry Esker; Adam Fikso; Annalee Fjellberg (AFj); Conrad Fialkowski; Susan Friscia; Todd Fink; Bill Glass; Charles Goetz; Ray Ganey (RGa); Ann Haverstock; Amy Hortsman (AHO); L. Barrie Hunt; David Hanna (DHa); Duane Heaton (DHe); Dan Holm (DHo); Jim Hart (JHa); Jim Heim (JHm); Jeff Hoover (JHo); Kanae Hirabayashi; Marianne Hahn; Mary Hennen (MHe); Robert Hughes; Ralph Herbst (RHe); Richard Hugel (RHu); Scott Hickman; David Johnson; Doris Johanson (DJo); Lee Johnson (LJo); Christine Lee; Jim Landing; Stephen Lee; Nicholas Kalodimos; Pamela Koziol; Rose Kirwan; Vernon Kleen; Cynthia McKee (CMc); Dan Miller (DMi); David Mandell; Joe Milosevich; John McKee (JMc); Judy Mellin (JMe); Keith McMullen; Margaret Mechtenberg (MMe); Margo Milde (MMi); Walter Marcisz; Jim Neal; Joe Nowak (JNo); Stacia Novy; V. Nuzzo; John O'Brien; John O'Neal (JOn); Christine Philip; David Peppers (DPe); Mark Phipps;

KEY TO THE SEASONAL REPORT:

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

ad. = adult	resp. = respectively
subad = subadult	m.ob. = many observers
imm. = immature	est. = estimate(d)
yg. = young	Co = County
pr. = pair	C.A. = Conservation Area
* = documented record	F.P. = Forest Preserve
** = specimen record	F.W.A. = Fish & Wildlife Area

L = Lake	R = River
N.C. = Nature Center	S.F. = State Forest
N.P. = Nature Preserve	S.P. = State Park
N.W.R. = Nat'l Wildl Refuge	BBS = Breeding Bird Survey

CCNSBC = Cook Co. Nesting Season Bird Census,
4-14 June 1993

MC = Maximum Count(s)

Other Abbreviations Used:

Carl.L = Carlyle Lake (Clinton Co.)
 CBG = Chicago Botanic Gardens (Glencoe, Cook Co.)
 Chi = Chicago's lakefront parks—excl. JP (Cook Co.)
 Clin.L = Clinton Lake (De Witt Co.)
 CNC = Crabtree Nature Center (Cook Co.)
 COLSP = Chain O' Lakes S.P. (Lake Co.)
 DPCA = Des Plaines C.A. (Will Co.)
 ESTL = E. St. Louis (St Clair Co.)
 GLPSP = Goose Lake Prairie S.P. (Grundy Co.)
 GLNTC = Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co.)
 HL = Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co.)
 HLCA = Horseshoe Lake C.A. (Alexander Co.)
 IBSP = Illinois Beach S.P. (Lake Co.)
 JAAP = Joliet Arsenal Ammunition Plant (Will Co.)
 JP = Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co.)
 KCP = Kennekuk Cove Park (Vermilion Co.)
 LCal = Lake Calumet (Cook Co.)
 LCNP = La Salle Co Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co.)
 LRen = Lake Renwick (Will Co.)

LRSHNC = Little Red School House N.C. (Cook Co.)
 LVerm = Lake Vermilion (Vermilion Co.)
 MFWA = Middlefork F.W.A. (Vermilion Co.)
 MM = McKee Marsh (Du Page Co.)
 MS = McGinnis Slough (Cook Co.)
 Rend L = Rend Lake (Franklin Co.)
 RLCA = Rice Lake Co.nservation Area (Fulton Co.)
 Sang.L = Sangchris Lake State Park (Sangamon Co.)
 Spfld = Springfield (Sangamon Co.)
 SLCA = Spring Lake C.A. (Tazewell Co.)
 SRSF = Sand Ridge S.F. (Mason Co.)
 SRSP = Starved Rock S.P. (La Salle Co.)
 UCCA = Union Co C.A. (Union Co.)
 Wauk = Waukegan (Lake Co.)

A number in parentheses indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds.

Peter Petersen; Richard Palmer; Wendy Paulson; Bowden Quinn; Al Rothenbach; Elaine Regehr; Harriet Rylaarsdam; Helen Reid (HRe); Jay Rochelle; Kevin Richmond; Marjory Rand; Scott Robinson; Alan Stokie; Audrey Smith (ASm); Barbara Stitt; Bob Simpson (BSi); Darrell Shambaugh; James Smith; Jeffrey Sanders (JSa); Jim Steffen (JSt); Jerry Sullivan (JSu); Leonard Stanley (LSt); Mark Seiffert (MSe); Paul Strand; Robert Szafoni; Scott Simpson; Terry Schilling; Wes Serafin; Al Thomas; Craig Thayer; Janet Tebussek; Roger Tucker (RTu); Bill Valentine; Glendy Vanderah; Allan Welby; Charles Westcott; Dan Williams; Eric Walters; J.R. Ware; Kenneth Wilz; Larry Wargowski; Patrick Ward (PWa).

As expected, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations; the more documentations from observers, the higher rating the record will receive by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. Observers should, as much as possible, prepare the documentations in the field at the time they are observing the bird(s). Although photographs are better than written documentations, observers should not rely totally on their photograph as the documentary evidence unless the photograph is available for immediate

review (while the bird is still under observation), and there is no doubt the photograph distinctly identifies the bird that is being documented.

Summer Season 1993

Common Loon

Vermilion Co, 2-4 July (MC).

Pied-billed Grebe

Nests: Joliet (5 eggs), 17 June (JM). Broods: Lake Villa (Lake Co.) (1 ad. w/ 8 yg.), 15 June (RK fide DJ); Poplar Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (2 = 2 & 5 yg.), 27 June-3 July (JMe, DHe fide AA); LCal (4 = 1-6 yg./brood), 27 June thru 31 July (WM); MS (24 ad. including 11 yg.), 16 June (BG) & (34, mostly yg.), 26 Aug. (WS); LRSHNC (2), early June (PD fide AA); S. Chicago Hts. (Woodlawn marsh) (2 = 8 yg.), 10 June (JT fide AA); Chi (Powderhorn) (2 yg.), 27 June (WM fide AA); Riverdale (1 yg.), 11 July (WM fide AA); Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.) (4 yg. & 3 newly-hatched yg.), 24 July & 31 July, resp. (JM); Joliet (3 yg. & 4 yg.), 16 May & 17 June, resp. (JM); JAAP (3 yg.), 6 June (BG); GLPSP (ad. w/ 6 yg.), 25 July (CMc, JMc); Middlefork

Sightings of Egrets and Herons in Illinois / Summer 1993*

	Great Blue Heron		Great Egret	
	Air	Grnd	Air	Grnd
Mississippi River (County)				
East Dubuque (Jo Daviess)	+		+	
Andalusia (Rock Island)	250		50	
Blanchard Island (Rock Island)	100		19	
Bogus Island (Mercer)	150		30	
Campbell Island (Henderson)	100			
Lomax (Henderson)	250		25	
Eagle Island (Hancock)	50		?	
Hackley Island (Hancock)	150		50	
Barnes Island (Adams)	75			
Armstrong Island (Adams)	250		25	
Denmark Island (Pike)	125		?	
Clarksville Island (Calhoun)	300		?	
Red's Landing (Calhoun)	150		125	
Hat Island (Calhoun)	300		200	
Island #525 (Calhoun)	600		200	
East St. Louis (St. Clair)		0		+
Alorton (St. Clair)		0		+
Beagles Island (Monroe)	750		50	

Illinois River (County)				
	Great Blue Heron		Great Egret	
	Air	Grnd	Air	Grnd
Depue (Bureau)	500		50	
Marshall County (Marshall)		551		+
Worley Lake (Tazewell)		475		137
Clear Lake (Mason)		707		189
Matanza (Mason)	400		50	
Mercedosia (Cass)	125		10	

Rock River Area (County)				
	Great Blue Heron		Great Egret	
	Air	Grnd	Air	Grnd
Garden Slough (Boone)		2		
Mosquito Creek (Boone)		8		
Rockton (Winnebago)		34		
Pecatonica (Winnebago)		49		
Lowden Miller S.P. (Ogle)		5		
Kilbuck Creek (Ogle)		5		
Hillsdale (Whiteside)	50 (Ed A.)			
Joslin (Henry)	40 (Ed A.)		10 (Ed A.)	

Corps of Engineers Lakes (County)				
	Great Blue Heron		Great Egret	
	Air	Grnd	Air	Grnd
Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie)		79		
Carlyle Lake (Fayette)	150			
Carlyle Lake-Patoka (Fayette)	20			
Rend Lake-Casey Fork (Jefferson)	600			?
Rend Lake-Waltonville (Jefferson)	20			
Rend Lake-Below dam (Franklin)		150		

Ohio/Cache River Area (County)				
	Great Blue Heron		Great Egret	
	Air	Grnd	Air	Grnd
Unity (Alexander)	20			
Little Black Slough (Johnson)	500			50
Round Pond (Pope)	400			?
Reevesville (Pope)	100			10
Harrisburg (Saline)	5			

Central Illinois locations (County)				
	Great Blue Heron		Great Egret	
	Air	Grnd	Air	Grnd
Ewing Creek (Franklin)		6		
Big Creek (Fayette)		21		
Mill Branch (Clark)		13		
Salt Fork (Effingham)		80		
Armstrong (Vermilion)		+		
Alvin (Vermilion)		5		
Iroquois (Iroquois)		3		
Allerton Park (Piatt)		10		

Northeastern Illinois (County)				
	Great Blue Heron		Great Egret	
	Air	Grnd	Air	Grnd
Somonauk (De Kalb)		10+		
Nesson (Kendall)		13		
Lake Calumet-Indian Ridge (Cook)				17
Goose Lake (Cook)		68		
Lake Renwick (Will)		412		253
Bartlett (Cook)		171		
Baker's Lake (Cook)		117		70
Crabtree Center (Cook)		10		2
Long Grove (Lake)		3		

* See references throughout Field Notes



*Young Great Egrets at nests, Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, Plainfield, Will County. 6 July 1993.
Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.*

F.P. (Champaign Co.), (3 = 2-5 yg./brood), 29 May-15 July (EC, RC); Havana (4 ad., 1 yg.), 17 July (RP, MD); Beardstown (Cass Co.) (2 yg.), 18 June (KR). Others: JP (2), 20-26 July (HR); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (10 calling ads.), 19 June (RC, EC); Havana (2), May/June (KR); Bath (Mason Co.) (1-2), 18 June-31 July (DR); Decatur (2), all summer (MD); Monroe Co (4), 11 July (KM).

American White Pelican

Mississippi R (Carroll Co.) (**30**), 23 June (EA); Spring L (Carroll Co.) (**4**), 23 June (EA); LCal (subad.—holdover from late Feb.) thru 18 July (WM, m.ob.); **GLPSP**, 12 June (RP). (Note: Watch for this species to establish a nesting colony in Illinois—perhaps on an island in the Mississippi R.).

Double-crested Cormorant

Colonies: Mississippi R (Carroll Co.) (55 nests of the 780 in this colony straddling the Iowa/Illinois line are in Illinois), 26 May (LW); Baker's L (Cook Co.) (35), 6 June (SBy); Crabtree Center (Cook Co.) (1), 7 June (MC); LRen (211 nests), 26 Apr.-14 May (JM); Fulton Co (15 nests), 24 May (V); Carl.L (at least 150 nests), 25 May (VK). MC: 340 (ad. & yg.), LRen, 6 July (JM). Others: GLNTC, 11 July (JN); Stickley (Cook Co.) (20-35 ad.), 6 June-15 August (RHe) fide AA; Chi (Powderhorn) (33 in flight), 5 June (WM); Chi (Sanitary and Ship Canal) (12+), 11 June (NK); Palos (9), 17 July (JL); MS (12), 16 June (BG); Heidecke L (Grundy Co.) (8 & 2), 9 June & 22 June, resp. (JM); L Verm, 23 July (MC); Sang.L, 28 June (DB); Cairo (Alexander Co.), 25 June (KM).

American Bittern

near CNC (heard), CCNSBC (KW fide AA); GLPSP (ad.), 12 June (MD); Beardstown (Cass Co.), 1 Aug. (PWa); near Bogota (Jasper Co) (ad.), 18 June (TE).

Least Bittern

Nests: Joliet (no eggs), 17 June (JM); Randolph/Perry Co.s (**4** = 0,2,3 & 4 eggs), 16 June (TF); Ava (Jackson Co.), June (AHO); UCCA (eggs), 15 July (TF). Others: Wadsworth (Lake Co.), 11 June (JS); Lake Villa (Lake Co.) (ad.), 15 June (RK fide DJ); Nelson L Marsh N.P. (Kane Co.), 31 July (JM); Barrington (**3 pr.**), CCNSBC (CW fide AA); Chi (Powderhorn) (2 heard), 11 July (JOn fide AA); LCal (heard), 4-10 July (BQ, RH); MS (4 heard), 15-16 June (WS, BG); Lockport (Will Co.) (heard), 26 May (JM); Joliet, 19-20 July (JM); GLPSP, 5 June (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (ads.), 10-22 July and **3 yg.** on 25 July (*RC); Mahomet (Champaign Co.) (pr.), 18-24 July (RC); Beardstown (Cass Co.) (3), 18 June-23 July (KR) and (5), 1 Aug. (PWa); UCCA, 30 July (TF).

Great Blue Heron

Colonies: See Table. Others: Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (8 ad.), 19 June (EC, RC).

Great Egret

Colonies: See table. Pontoon Beach colony (Madison Co.) was abandoned this year. MC: 242 (ad. & yg.), LRen, 6 July (JM). Others: Freeport (Stephenson Co.) (3), 11 June (DW); Lake Villa (Lake Co.) (16), 23 June (RK fide DJ); MS (23), 16 June

(BG); GLPSP, 5 & 9 June (JM); Morton (Tazewell Co.), 25 June (KR). Good numbers distributed throughout n.e. Illinois as a result of the two major colonies.

Snowy Egret

ESTL (part of 2 multi-species colonies, a few pr. present in both colonies) (fide VK); Union/Alexander Co.s (49), 17 June (TF). Little Blue Heron—ESTL (part of 2 multi-species colonies; excellent numbers at both locations) (fide VK); Pontoon Beach colony (Madison Co.) abandoned this year.

Cattle Egret

Colonies: Mississippi R (across from Thomson in Carroll Co.) (substantial colony—but destroyed by flood) (VK, EA m.ob); LRen (14 nests—2-4 yg./nest), 8 May-26 Aug. (JM); Mississippi R (s.w. of Ware—Union Co.) (substantial colony—hundreds—but exact size not determined prior to destruction by flood), 25 May (VK); ESTL (part of 2 multi-species colonies, excellent numbers in both colonies) (fide VK). MC: 174, w. Pulaski Co, 22 May (JHo); 32 (ad.), LRen, 19 July (JM). Others: Burnham (Cook Co.), 6 June (WM); Braidwood (10), 11 June (JM); n.w. Will Co (9 ad.), 24 July (JM); Decatur (ad.), 17 June, and sporadically thru July (RP, MD); Havana (Mason Co.) (10), 18 June (KR); Dickson Mounds (Fulton Co.) (34 & 75), 28 June & 30 July, resp. (KR); Browning (Schuyler Co.) (200), 30 July (KR); Snicarte (Mason Co.), (6), 30 July (KR); Meredosia (Morgan Co.) (25), 1 Aug. (PWa).

Green-backed Heron

Nests: JP, 16 May (WM); LRen (2—4 & 5 eggs), 14 May & 18 June, resp. (JM). MC: 12, Lake Villa (Lake Co.), 23 June (RK fide DJ); 12, Beardstown (Cass Co.), 23 July (KR); 10, RLCA, 26 July (KR); 9, Chi (Powderhorn), 11 June (WM); 9, JP, 29 July (KC fide HR). Others: 18 (ad.), w. Will Co (8 locations), 31 May-12 July (JM); Nelson L Marsh N.P. (Kane Co.) (imm.), 31 July (JM); Frontenac Marsh (s. Du Page Co.) (imm.), 31 July (JM); LCal (4-5 prs.), June/July (JL); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co.) (yg.), 17 July (RP); Spfld (8), 28 July (DB); Homer (2), June/July (JS); Fairmount (Vermilion Co.) (4), June/July (JS).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Colonies: Baker's L (Cook Co.) (13 nests), 6 June (SBy); LCal (Big Marsh) (**572 active nests**), 27 May (SE); LCal (120th St., 2 locations) (**100+ nests**: 79 in cottonwoods, the remainder—not countable—in phragmites; however, 150+ ads. observed in the new location), 30 Apr. & 19 June, resp. (WM); LRen (74+ nests & 4 ad. still on nests), 18 June & 1 Aug., resp. (JM); Clear L (Mason Co.) (66 nests), 11 June (RBj); Worley L (Tazewell Co.) (43 nests), 8 June (RBj); ESTL (part of 2 multi-species colonies; apparently excellent numbers this year) (fide VK). The Pontoon Beach colony (Madison Co.) abandoned this year. Others: Boone Co (4 ad.), thru mid-June (AB, MR); Evanston (North Shore Channel) (nest), 7 July (ASm fide AA); JP (22), 3 July (KC fide HR); LCNP (96—ad. & imm.—probable nesting), 8 Aug. (CMc, JMc); Sam Parr S.P. (Jasper Co) (ad.), 26 May (SS).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Nests: Chi (Powderhorn) (2 = 5 fledged yg. & 4 eggs—failed to hatch), 23 Apr.-11 July (WM, JNo). Others: Wauk, 18 June, 6 July and (2), 12 July (JN); N. Chicago (Lake Co.) (ad.), 13 July (DJ); s.e. Franklin Co, (1 ad., 3 imm.), 30 July (LSt); UCCA

(ad.), 25 July (DMi et al.).

Mute Swan

Broods: Baker's L (Cook Co.) (5 yg.), 6 June (DD, RB fide AA); Des Plaines (7 yg.), 11 June (RHe fide AA); LCal (5 = 4-7 yg./brood), 8-31 May (WM); Orland Park (6 ad., 3 yg.), 6 June (WS). Others: Present during CCNSBC at Glenview (4-6 ad.) (DJo, AF fide AA) & Northbrook (2) (RGa fide AA) & Poplar Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (4), (JMe, DHe fide AA) & Chi (Powderhorn) (11) (WM fide AA); Spfld (2), 19-20 June (DB).



Female Common Goldeneye, Brandon Road Lock and Dam, Will County. 14 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Canada Goose

Broods: Boone Co (8 = 2-3 yg./brood) (AB, MR); w. Will Co (26), May/July (JM); 9, e. Grundy Co, May/July (JM); Spfld (14 = 3-6 yg./brood; ave. = 4.36 yg.), beginning 22 Apr. (DB). MC: 105, JP, 5 June (KC fide HR); 100, Spfld, 11, 12 & 19 July (DB).

Wood Duck

Broods: Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (20+), June/July (RC, EC); Spfld (20 = 1-12 yg./brood; ave. = 5.8 yg.), beginning 21 May (DB). MC: 100+, Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), June/July (EC); 75, SLCA, 17 July (RP).

Green-winged Teal

LCal (pr.), June/July (JL, m.ob.), but (2 males), 26-27 June (WM); GLPSP (male), 5 June (JM); Decatur (pr.—no yg. observed), May thru July (RP, MD); Havana (Mason Co.) (3+), June/July+ (KR); Monroe Co (pr.), 12 July (KM).

Mallard

Nests: GLPSP (9 eggs), 5 June (JM); Dresden Cooling L (Will Co.) (8 eggs), 1 July (JM). Broods: LCal (9 = 2-10 yg./brood), 8 May-31 July (WM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (12+), June/July (RC, EC); Spfld (11 = 1-10 yg./brood; ave. = 6.36 yg.), beginning 11 May (DB). MC: 150, Decatur, 30 July (RP); 144, Joliet, 19 July (JM).

Northern Pintail

Havana (Mason Co.) (pr.), May/June+ (KR).

Blue-winged Teal

Broods: LCal (4-5), June/July (JL); GLPSP (2 = 11 & 6 yg.), 5 June (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (6 = 4-11 yg./brood), ave. = 9.33 yg.), July (RC, EC); Sang.L (female w/3 yg.), 6 July (DB); Havana (Mason Co.) (pr. w/ 4 yg.), 25 June (KR); Bath (Mason Co.) (female w/ 4 yg.), 18 June-16 July (KR). Others: Arcola (Douglas Co) (2), 11 June (BH); Decatur (8—6 males, 2 females), May thru July (RP, MD); Monroe Co (4), 20 July and (42—mainly migrants), 27 July (KM). The 1993 CCNSBC figures show a 30-40% decline since 1992 (AA).

Northern Shoveler

Broods: Havana (Mason Co.), (female w/8 yg.), 28 June (KR).

Others: Somonauk (La Salle Co.) (male), early May-18 June (DS); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (**pr.**), 29 May and (male), 6 June (EC, RC); Spfld (**pr.**), 3-23 July (DB).

Ruddy Duck at Frontenac Marsh, Du Page County. 24 July 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich. (Right)

Ruddy Ducks at Frontenac Marsh, Du Page County. These were part of a brood group of seven female-plumaged birds present. 24 July 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich. (Below)



Hooded Merganser
Broods: Paul Douglas F.P. (Cook Co.) (female w/8 yg.), 5 & 11 June (fide EW—photo); CNC (2), (CW fide AA); near CNC, 13 June (JO fide AA); Glenview (5 yg.), (JW fide AA); LRSHNC, early June (PD fide AA); DPCA (2=7 yg. & 2 yg.), 31 May (JM); GLPSP (8 yg.), 5 June (JM); Havana (Mason Co.) (2 grown yg.), 5 June (KR); Spfld (2=

6 yg. & 7 yg.), 5 June & 17 July, resp. (DB).
Others: Seen during CCNSBC at CBG, LaBagh Woods (Cook Co.), Chi (Montrose) (2), Chi (Humboldt Park—2, River City—1), Richton Park (Cook Co.) & Van Vlissingen Prairie (Cook Co.), JP (3), 21 June (KC fide HR); Riverdale (male), 26 June & 26 July (WM); JAAP (female), 13 June (BG); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (female), 6-19 June (EC, RC); Decatur (**pr.**), 2-3 July (RP, MD); Sanganois C.A. (Mason Co.) (ad. female), 5 June (KR); Monroe Co (6), 11 July (KM). Many of the

June & July dates were probably of wandering postbreeding ad./immatures.

Gadwall

LCal (male), June/July (JL, m.ob.); Joliet (male), 8 May-25 Aug.+ (JM); Havana (Mason Co.) (**pr.**), May/June+ (KR).

American Wigeon

Baker's L (Cook Co.) (2 males, 3 females), **5 June** (DD, RB fide AA).

Redhead

Baker's L (Cook Co.) (male), 6 June (DD, RB fide AA); Joliet (**pr.**), 8 May-8 July, and, (female-plumaged bird), 26 July-25 Aug.+ (JM).

Ring-necked Duck

Lake Villa (Lake Co.) (male), 15 June (RK fide DJ); Baker's L (Cook Co.) (male), CCNSBC (RB fide AA); Chi (Little Calumet R) (**pr.**), 16 May-31 July+ (WM); s. Chicago Heights (male), CCNSBC (JT fide AA); Decatur (male), May into August (MD); Havana (Mason Co.) (3), May/June+ (KR).

Lesser Scaup

GLNTC (1-3), 13-19 June & 11 July-25 Aug. (JN); Baker's L (Cook Co.) (3 males), 6 June (RB); Heidecke L (Grundy Co.) (male), 22 June (JM); Spfld (male), 5 June (DB); Monroe Co (2 males), 6-14 July and (1 male) to 18 July (KM).

COMMON GOLDENEYE

Joliet (female), 8 May-19 July (JM—photo).

BUFFLEHEAD

JP (injured female), 12 June through early August (HR, DA fide AA).

Common Merganser

LCal (male), June/July (JL); Des Plaines (male), 11 June (RHe fide AA); Joliet (1 male & 4 females), 31 May, but (1-4 female-plumaged birds), 2 June-25 Aug.+ (JM); Heidecke L (Grundy Co.) (male), 24 May-30 Aug.+ (JM).

Red-breasted Merganser

Others: Stickney (Cook Co.) (male), 4-27 June (RHe fide AA); Chi (Wolf L), 12 June (WM); LCal (male), June/July (JL); Joliet (male), 8 May-23 June (JM); Rend L (Jefferson Co), **3 July** (TF).

Ruddy Duck

Broods: Frontenac Marsh (sw. Du Page Co.) (female & 6 yg.), 24-31 July (JM—photo). Others: Observed at MS (3), Riverdale (2 **pr.**) and Baker's L during June (fide AA); Monroe Co, 14-16 July (KM).

Black Vulture

Boaz (Massac Co.) (50), 22 May (VK, TF); Belknap (Johnson Co.) (47), 6 July (JHo).

Turkey Vulture

Nests: **Black Partridge Woods F.P. (Cook Co.)** (2 yg.), late August (MCA fide AA). MC: 20, North Pekin (Tazewell Co.), 22 June (KR); 13, n.w. Sangamon Co, 6 June (DB); 9, Clin.L, 10 July (RP); 7, Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.), 19 June (AH); 7, Spfld, 4 July (DB); 4, LRSHNC, early June (PD fide AA); 4, Saganashkee Slough, 18 June (CT); 4, Homer, June/July (JS).
Others: Seen during CCNSBC at Spears Woods F.P. (Cook Co.),

Chi (Egger's Woods) & Camp Sagawau (Cook Co.) (3) (fide AA); w. Will Co (6 at 4 locations), June/July (JM); Boone Co (4 ad.), June/July (AB, MR).

Osprey

Stickney (Cook Co.) (feeding), 4 June (RHe fide AA); KCP (ad.), **2 July** (MC); Decatur, **10 July** (RP, MD); Clin.L., **31 July** (RP, MD).

Bald Eagle

Known Successful Nests: Carl.L. (2 yg.); Spring L. (Carroll Co.) (3 yg.); Carroll Island (Calhoun Co.) (1 yg.). Storm damage in June destroyed several nests/young. Others: LCal (imm.), 3 Aug. (JL); Peoria (ad.), 15 May & 12 July (SBh fide DHo); Anderson L.C.A. (Fulton Co.) (ad. pr.), early summer (RCo); Woodson (Morgan Co.) (ad.), 4 June (MP); Red's Landing (Calhoun Co.) (ad.), 20 July (MP); Charleston (ad.), 21 June & 11 Aug. (BH), and 17 Aug. (RBr).

Mississippi Kite

Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (pr.), June/July (fide SR); e.c. Alexander Co (nest building), 11 July (TF); Thebes (Alexander Co.) (7), 25 June (KM); Monroe Co, 19 July (KM).

Northern Harrier

Nests: near Bogota (Jasper Co) (5 of **7 nests** fledged yg.), May/July (TE); near Kinmundy (Marion Co) (5 eggs), 7 May (TE). Nesting: **KCP (nesting in marsh)**, 11 June (MC); **GLPSP** (female carrying food to yg.), 5 June (JM). Others: Green River C.A. (Lee Co.), 13 June (DS); Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (courting pr.), 18 May-19 June (*AH et al.); Streamwood (Bode L—Cook Co.) (male), 8 June (AA); s.e. La Salle Co (pr.), 28 May (CMc, JMc); n.c. Livingston Co (female), 11 July (CMc, JMc); Saidora (Mason Co.) (female), 25 June (KR); Logan (Franklin Co.) (pr.), 7-16 June (LSt); Monroe Co, 24 July (KM).

Cooper's Hawk

Nests: Gurnee (Lake Co.) (2 nests; only 1 yg. fledged) (RTu); Greenbelt F.P. (Lake Co.) (1 yg.), 25 June (DJ, BS); LRSHNC (PD fide AA); Braidwood, 11 June (JM); Trail of Tears S.F. (Union Co), June/July (fide SR). Broods: Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co) (family), June (fide SR); Tapley Woods (Jo Daviess Co) (fledged family), June (fide SR). Others: Ward's Grove (Jo Daviess Co), June/July (fide SR); Mississippi Palisades S.P. (two locations) (Carroll Co), June/July (fide SR); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Co), 26 June-9 July (MA*); Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.), 22 June (DC); River Trails N.C. (Cook Co.), 31 May (JE fide AA); Somme Woods F.P. (Cook Co.), 22 Apr.-4 June (BV fide AA); Lockport (ad.), 24 June (JM); LRen (imm.), 1 Aug. (JM); KCP (yg. of year released after rehabilitation), 27 July (MC); Singing Woods (Peoria Co), June (fide SR); Banner (Fulton Co.), 31 July (KR); Sang.L. (ad.), 5 July (DB); near Siloam Springs S.P. (Adams Co) (ad.), 29 June (MP); (pr.), June (fide SR); Ware (Union Co), June/July (fide SR); South

Ripple Hollow (Alexander Co), June (fide SR); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co), June (fide SR); Simpson Barrens (Pope Co), June (fide SR). During CCNSBC at Northbrook, MS & Plum Grove F.P. (fide AA);

Red-shouldered Hawk

Nests: Glenview (1 yg.), (DJo fide AA); Joliet (female incubating, feeding yg.), 12 May & 10 June, resp. (JM); SRSP (2 yg.), 21 May (CMc, JMc); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co) (6 prs., 2 nests), June/July (fide SR); Ware (Union Co), June (fide SR); North Ripple Hollow (Alexander Co), June/July (fide SR); Lower Cache River (Pulaski Co), June (fide SR).

Broad-winged Hawk

Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (ad.), 22 June (DC); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (pr.), 15 June (JM); SRSP (imm.), 1 Aug. (CMc, JMc); Rend L Dam (2), 14 June (LSt); Pomona (2-3 prs.), June/July (fide SR); Pine Hills (Union Co) (pr.), June/July (fide SR); Ware (Union Co) (pr.), June/July (fide SR); North & South Ripple Hollows (Alexander Co) (2 prs.), June/July (fide SR). Seen during CCNSBC at Palos, Tinley Park, Thatcher Woods F.P., River Trails N.C. (3) & Wheeling (2) (fide AA).

Swainson's Hawk

Starks (Kane Co.) (ad.), 12 June (RP) and (2 ad.), 7 Aug. (CMc, JMc).

Red-tailed Hawk

Nests: LCal (2 yg.), 8 May (WM); Lansing (Cook Co.) (ad. on), 10 Apr. (WM); Braidwood (2 yg. about to fledge), 28 Apr. & 1 June, resp. (JM); Spfld, 30 May (DB).

American Kestrel

Nests: Braidwood (3 yg.), 11 June (JM); Union (Mason Co.) (5 yg.), 26-31 July (KR); Homer (5 yg.), 1 Aug. (JS); Sangamon Co (41 yg. banded in 10 of 22 available boxes), 18 May-6 July (JHa). Others: LCal (3-4 broods), June/July (JL); Somonauk (La Salle/De Kalb Co.) (12), 31 July (DS).

Peregrine Falcon

Nests: Chi (Wacker St.—3 yg.), flying by 28 June (MHe fide AA). Others: Chi (Egger's Woods), 9 June (WM); **Lawrenceville** (sewage lagoon) (banded), 2 July (**fide TE).

Ring-necked Pheasant

1993 Co.) index is 6.0% lower than 1992 and 1.6% lower than the previous five-year mean; however, the August 1993 roadside brood counts show a 70% increase from 1992 and a 24% increase over the five-year mean (LD); numbers slowing improving at LCal (JL).

Greater Prairie-Chicken

near Bogota (Jasper Co) (12 males on 3 booming grounds), 3 Apr. (TE, SS); near Kinmundy (Marion Co) (15 males on 2



Common Moorhen nest with nine eggs, Theodore Marsh, Will County, 6 June 1993.

Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

booming grounds), 15 Apr. (TE, SS); near Xenia (Clay Co) (1 male booming), 27 Mar. (TE).

Wild Turkey

Nests: Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co) (3), May (fide SR). Others: Sheffield (Bureau Co), 31 May (PP); Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (ad.), 15 June (DC); Lodge Park (Piatt Co.) (2 females), 20 June (RC); FGP (ad. w/ 8 medium-sized yg.), 19 July (MC).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 50, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 44, St. Morgan BBS route (Madison Co.), 6 June (KM). Others: Cap Sauer's F.P. (Cook Co.) (pr), CCNSBC (BSi fide AA); s. Menard Co (pr. w/ 8 small yg.), 9 Aug. (VK). The 1993 call index increased by 7.6% in comparison to 1992 and was 9.6% above the previous five-year mean (LD).

King Rail

Broods: **Beardstown** (Cass Co.) (pr. w/ 4 yg.), 1 Aug. (PWa); **near Bogota** (Jasper Co) (ad. w/ yg.), 15 July (TE, SS). Others: **JAAP** (2 locations), 27 May & 9 June plus an **aban-**

Sandhill Crane summering at the very unlikely location of Cherry Hill Woods Forest Preserve, Cook County. 15 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich. Sandhill Crane is endangered in Illinois.



Sandhill Crane, University Park, IL, Will County. This very tame bird, unbanded in stained plumage frequented a local golf course in summer. 15 August 1993.

Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



doned nest, 24 June (BG); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co.) (ad.), 14 May & 10 June (KR); Bath (Mason Co.) (ad.), 18 June (KR); near Bogota (Jasper Co) (ad.), 18 June & 30 Aug. (TE).

Virginia Rail

Broods: LCal (2 = 3 & 2 yg./brood), 27 June & 10 July, resp. (WM). Others: Wadsworth (2), 27-29 June (SH); Deer Grove F.P. (Cook Co.) (heard), CCNSBC (DJ fide AA); Chi (Powderhorn) (3 ad.), 11 June (WM); Chi (Egger's Woods) (ad.), 9 June (WM); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co.) (2 ad.), 27 June (WM); Joliet (6) and Lockport (5), 2 June (JM); JAAP (3 locations), 27 May-5 June (BG).

Sora

Young: Paul Douglas F.P. (Cook Co.) (ad. w/ 2 yg.), early June (AF, AFj fide AA); LCal (2 yg.), 10 July (WM). Others: During CCNSBC at Barrington (3 pr.), Deer Grove F.P., Bartlett, Schaumburg (2 heard), JP, Burnham Prairie, Chi (Powderhorn) & Westchester (fide AA); Joliet (4) and Lockport (4), 2 June (JM); JAAP (4 locations), 26 May-1 July (BG); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 10 July (RC); Havana (heard), 17 July (RP).

Common Moorhen

Nests: Joliet (9 eggs), 6 June (JM—photo); Freeburg (St. Clair Co.) (9 eggs), 16 June (AHO, TF). Broods: Wadsworth (1 = 5 yg.), 3 July (SH); Lake Villa (Lake Co.) (2 yg.), 23 June (RK fide DJ); Chi (Powderhorn) (1 yg.), 27 June (WM fide AA); LCal (14 = 1-8 yg./brood), 16 June-8 August (JL, WM, fide AA); LRSHNC (PD fide AA); Joliet (2 or 3 = 6 chicks & 6 imm.), 25 Aug. (JM). Nesting: St. Clair Co. (AHO); Monroe Co. (?) (imm.), 17 July (KM). Others: During CCNSBC at Chi (Egger's Woods) (ad.), near CNC (2 pr.), Riverdale & Bartel's Grasslands; JAAP, 2 June (BG); McDonald Woods F.P. (Lake Co.) (2 ad.), 18 June (SD fide DJ); UCCA (heard), all June and 30 July (TF); Beardstown (Cass Co) (1+) 18 June-1 Aug. (KR, PWa).

American Coot

Broods: Poplar Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (3 = 13 yg.) (JMe, DHe fide AA); Schaumburg (Cook Co.) (6 = 17 yg.), 4 & 6 June and 14 July (AA); LCal (2 = 7 yg. each), 19 June & 31 July (WM); LRSHNC (PD fide AA); Joliet (5 yg.), 6 June (JM); Frontenac Marsh (sw. Du Page Co.) (34 imm.), 24 July (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (5 yg.), 12 June (EC, RC); Decatur (3 pr. = 7 yg. total), June/July (RP, MD). Nesting: Monroe Co (?) (ad.), 16-24 July and (imm.), 16 July (KM).

Sandhill Crane

Nests: **Rockton** (Winnebago Co.—1st Co. record) (2 eggs), late May/July (DW); **Durand** (Winnebago Co.), June (VN fide DW). These are the furthest west IL nestings in this century. Young: Gilberts (Kane Co.) (pr. w/ yg.), 9 July (*HRe, et al.); Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co.) (pr. w/ yg.), 31 May- 5 June (SF, *MMe). Others: Belvidere (Boone Co.) (5 ad.), 5 June (AB, MR); CNC, thru 11 June (CW fide AA); Cherry Hill Woods F.P. (Cook Co.), 5 June-15 Aug.+ (CT—photo by JM); University

Park (on golf course—Will Co.) (“stained” plumage—tame and inquisitive), June/July+ (fide JM—photo).

Killdeer

MC: 33, LCal, 26 June (WM).

BLACK-NECKED STILT

s.w. Jackson Co. (pr. feigning injury), 20-24 June (TF et al.); Monroe Co. (2), 10-26 July (KM). Possibly guarding nest site. See seasonal highlights in this issue.



Monk Parakeet at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, IL. This bird was one of three in the Lincoln Park area. August 1993. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Spotted Sandpiper

Nests: Spfld, 3 July (DB). Young: Romeoville (2), 1 Aug. (JM); Dresden L (Will Co.) (2-3 families), 1 July (JM); Decatur (3 nesting prs.) (4 yg. noted), May/July (MD, RP); Spfld (fledged), 28 June (DB). Others: Buffalo Creek F.P. (Lake Co.) (16), 28 June (DJ); LCal (8-9 nesting prs.), June/July (JL);

Upland Sandpiper

JAAP (55 ad.—most stayed to breed), 12-14 May with 1st yg. capable of flight by 5 June & 18 yg. recorded on various June dates (BG et al.); LCal, 4 July (JL); Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (2), 5 May-19 June (AH, m.ob.); n.e. Henry Co., 27 May (CMc, JMc); c. Hancock Co. (2 males), 18 June (VK); Coles Co. (near airport) (3 ad.), 3 June (BH); near Bogota (Jasper Co.) (pr. w/ 3 yg.), 18 June (TE); near Kinmundy (Marion Co.) (pr.), 3 June (TE). Note: Have abandoned Vermilion Co. airport after third annual Memorial Day, hot-air balloon festival.

WHIMBREL

25 June, Decatur (MD, RP).

Common Snipe

Spring Creek Valley F.P. (Cook Co.), 6 June (WP fide AA); JAAP, 9 June (BG); GLPSP (2), 5 June (JM).

American Woodcock

Young: Chi (Powderhorn) (ad. w/ 3 yg.), early July (JNo fide WM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (2 fledglings), 11 July (RC). Others: IBSP (24), 8 May (DD fide EW); Zion (Beuhla Park), 31 July (JSt); Spfld, 11 July (DB); Sang.L., 15 July (DB).

Laughing Gull

LCal (ad.), 26 June (JL).

Ring-billed Gull

Nests: LCal (est. 10,000+) (JL) with 1st egg—23 May, half-grown yg. present by 20 June; Heidecke L (Grundy Co.) (9 nests, 208 nests, 51 nests), 23 Apr., 24 May & 22 June, resp. (JM—photos); Dresden L (Will Co.—1st Co. breeding record) (21 nests: 16 w/ yg. + 5 nests w/ eggs), 15 May & 1 July, resp. (JM—photos). Others: Joliet (30), 1 June — unusually common in rural Will Co. due to flooded fields (JM); Spfld (25-40), June/July, but (60 including 1 imm.), 16 July (DB); HL, 15 June (KM). First immatures of year on 30 June, Evanston (EW). MC: 1300 (400 est. imm.), Evanston, 14 July (EW). See article in this issue.

Herring Gull

Nests: Baker's L (Cook Co.) (5), 6 June (DD fide AA); LCal (1000-2000) (JL, WM). Others: Baker's L (as above) (5 fledglings), 4 July (RHe fide AA); Joliet (6), 14 June (JM); LRen (pr.), 18 June (JM).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

13 July (ad. summer), Evanston (EW); 26-31 July, Spfld (DB). Second and third IL summer records.

ROYAL TERN

Chi (Montrose), 18 June (*JO, DM). Third Illinois record.

Forster's Tern

McDonald Woods F.P. (Lake Co.), 18 June (SD fide DJ).

Least Tern

Mississippi R (Alexander Co. flooded area) (34), 25 June (KM) and 20), 10 July (CMc, JMc); Carl.L (ad.), 4 June (*MSe); LCal (1st-year), 4-11 July (BQ, m.ob.).

Black Tern

Villa Grove (Lake Co.) (13), 15 June (RK fide DJ); Decatur (3-38), June/July (MC on 28 July) (MD); Havana (Mason Co.) (1 = winter plumage & 7 = breeding plumage), 25 June & 20 July, resp. (KR); Bath (Mason Co.) (breeding plumage), 26 July (KR); n. Calhoun Co. (8 ad.), 8 July (MP). The July c. Illinois birds are likely migrants.

Mourning Dove

MC: 440, Monroe Co., 29 July (KM); 85, Spfld, 16 July (DB).

Monk Parakeet

JP (golf driving range) (15 birds at 5 nest sites), 12 June (AA); Chi (Hyde Park) (100+ birds in 6 nest sites), late summer (DA fide AA); Berwyn (Cook Co.) (2 nests in tower) (RHe fide AA); Chi (Olive Park), 12 June (TS fide AA). Nest sites/colonies in ne. Du Page Co. & ec. Du Page Co. & Zion in June/July (fide EW).

Black-billed Cuckoo

Carroll Co. (nest), June (fide SR); Sangamon Co., 13 June, 13 July & 19 July (DB). Scarce???

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Scarce in c. & n. Illinois (m.ob.). Nests: Jo Daviess and Carroll counties (2), June/July (fide SR); RLCA (3 eggs), 31 May (KR); Shawnee N.F. (Union Co.) (10), June/July (fide SR); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (10), June/July (fide SR). Others: Spfld (12 & 13), 5 June & 19 June, resp. (DB).

Barn Owl

Nests: s. Illinois (nest w/ 3 yg.), June/July and (nest w/3 yg. in private nest box), July/August (fide TF); Marion Co. (pr. w/6 eggs), **1 Nov.** (SS, TE); Pulaski Co. (ad. w/ 3 yg. in nest box—4 weeks old & ready to fledge), **21 Dec. 1993** (TF).

Great Horned Owl

Nests: Northbrook (**ad. on nest**), **26 Dec., 1992** (LB) - one of two yg. **fledged by 2 Mar.** (EW); LRen (2 yg. in heron nest), 7 Apr. (JM). **Young:** Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (2 fledglings), 10 July (RC).

Barred Owl

Plum Grove F.P. (Cook Co.), 5 June (SF fide AA); Monticello, 12 June (RC); Spfld, 5 June (DB).

Short-eared Owl

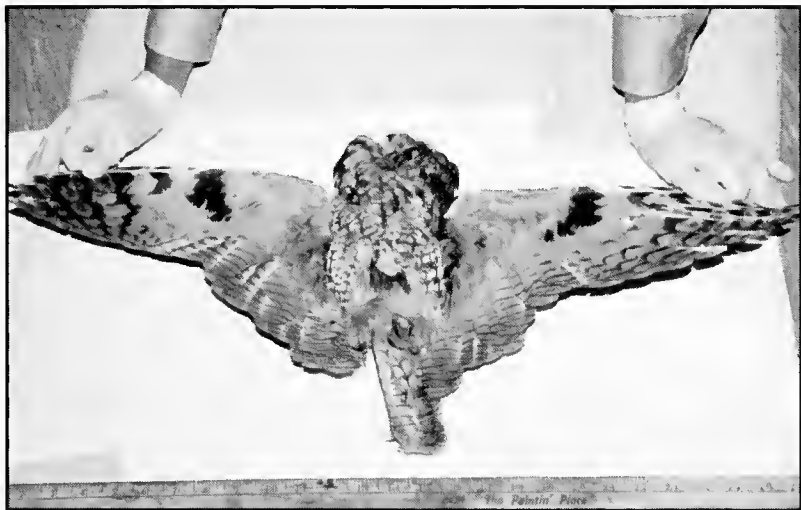
Nests: **Logan (Franklin Co.)** (5 yg.), 16 June (LSt); near Kinmundy (Marion Co.) (3 yg.), 7 May (TE).

LONG-EARED OWL

Franklin Grove (Ogle Co.), 19 May (MBm, **SBm—photos of specimen w/ brood patch) & (ad. carrying food), 29 May (*SBm). See seasonal highlights in this issue.

Chuck-will's-widow

SRSF (3 territories), 5-10 June (RBj).



Long-eared Owl found dead in Ogle County. 19 May 1993. Note brood patches which provide breeding evidence. Photo by Wally Janoskey.

Whip-poor-will

MC: **141** (territories), SRSF, 5-10 June (RBj); 4, Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.), 11 June (AH); Sang.L (2 calling), 15 July (DB)..

Common Nighthawk

SRSF (10 territories), 5-10 June (RBj).

Chimney Swift

Joliet (300—swarming over river), 3 June (JM); Spfld (**94—road casualties because of cool, wet weather), 6 June (DB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Nests: Fairmount (Vermilion Co.) (2 nests, 2 yg. each), 27 June & 21 July (JS); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (11), May/

July (fide SR). Others: IBSP (female), 13 June (fide EW); Half Day F.P. (Lake Co.), 20 June (DD fide DJ); Wadsworth Prairie, 18 June (JSt fide DJ); Palatine, 14 June (AW fide AA); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (female), 30 June (JM); Plum Creek F.P. (Will Co.) (male), 7 July & (female), 9 July (JM); Decatur (male, unusual for Decatur), May/July (MD); Sanganois C.A. (2 males), throughout June (KR); Spfld (5), 17 July (DB). Present during CCNSBC at CBG (pr.), LRSHNC (4), Cap Sauer's F.P. & Oak Lawn (fide AA).

Pileated Woodpecker

MC: 5, Spfld, 5 June (DB). Others: Joliet (male), 10 June (JM).

Eastern Wood-Pewee

MC: 25, Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.), 15 & 21 June (JM); 11, Monroe Co., 27 July (KM). Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Acadian Flycatcher

Nests: Joliet (2), 10 June & 13 July, resp. (JM). MC: 10, Lodge Park & White Heath (Piatt Co.), 20 June (RC); 8, Scott Air Force Base (St. Clair Co.), 23 June (KM). Others: Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (5), June/July (DW); COLSP, 15 June (DJ); Zion (Beuhla Park), 31 July (JSt fide DJ); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (3 males), 15 June (JM); Plum Creek F.P. (Will Co.) (male), 9 July (JM); Kankakee R S.P. (Will Co.) (male), 12 July (JM); Hopedale (Tazewell Co.) (pr.), 4 July (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (4 males), 19 June (EC). Seen during CCNSBC at Spring L N.P., Glenview Woods F.P., Bemis Woods F.P. & Chi (Wolf Lake) (fide AA). Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Alder Flycatcher

Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (male), 15-22 June (DC); Volo Bog (Lake Co.), 15 June-31 July (+) (DJ, MMi); Cherry Hill Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (male) 16-17 June (CT, m.ob.); Plum Grove F.P. (Cook Co.) (male), 15 June (SF et al.).

Willow Flycatcher

MC: 14 (9 males), Chi (Powderhorn), 11 June (WM); 12 (11 males), Burnham Prairie (Cook Co.), 6 June (WM); 8 (males), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), June/July (RC); 8, Monroe Co., 13 July (KM). Others: s.e. Franklin Co. (2), 24 July (LSt). Absent from Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (fide SR).

Least Flycatcher

Broods: **Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.)** (female w/ yg.), 25 July—male had been calling since 10 July (*RC). Others: Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (4 prs.), 16 May & 12 June (fide SR); Green River C.A. (Lee Co.) (male), 13 June (DS); Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (2 males), 18 June (AH); Volo Bog (Lake Co.), 15 June (DJ); Greenbelt F.P. (Lake Co.), 17 June (DJ, BS); DPCA (male), 12 June (RP).

Eastern Phoebe

Nests: Athens (3 broods fledged from same nest), May/July (VK). Others: Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Great Crested Flycatcher

MC: 18, Joliet, 10 June (JM); 14, Palos, 4 June (WS). Others: Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

Perks (Pulaski Co.) (ad. female), 10 July (*CMc, JMc—photo).
See seasonal highlights in this issue.

Horned Lark

MC: 113, Spfld, 9 July (DB). Others: Richton Park (Cook Co.) (15), CCNSBC (AA, JSu).

Purple Martin

CBG (41 nesting pr.), CCNSBC (JSt fide AA).

Bank Swallow

Colonies: Joliet (quarry w/ 100+ holes), May/June (JM); s.w. Henderson Co. (500+ holes), 18 June (VK); e. Sangamon Co. (80 birds present), 5 July (DB); Mahomet (Champaign Co.) (small colony), June/July (EC); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (small colony), June/July (EC). MC: 200+, Joliet, 4 June (JM); LCal (200+), 10 July (WM). Others: Evanston (nesting pr.), CCNSBC (fide AA); JP (10), June/July (HR).

Cliff Swallow

Colonies: CBG (5 pr.), CCNSBC (JSt fide AA); Skokie Lagoons (4 pr.), CCNSBC (JSa fide AA); Wilton Center (Will Co.) (2 nests), 8 May (JM); n.w. Will Co. (18 nests), 24 June (JM); s.w. Henderson Co. (20 nests on a rock quarry cliff), 18 June (VI); Morton (25 nests), 8 July (KR); Clin.L (5 nests), 31 July (RP, MD); Decatur (8 nests), 8 July (RP). Others: JP (2), June/July (HR); Chi (Egger's Woods), 9 June (WM); LCal, 10 July (JO fide WM) - migrant?; Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.) (2—feeding yg.), 20 June (WS); Joliet (1-3), 2-6 June (JM); Ottawa (16 ad.), 2 July (CMc, JMc); Chester (Randolph Co.) (100+) 25 June (KM); Frank Holten S.P. (St. Clair Co.) (2), 9 June (KM).

American Crow

MC: 75, Riverdale (Cook Co.), 12 June (WM).

Fish Crow

MC: 8, Monroe Co., 15 July (KM). Others: East Carondelet (St. Clair Co.) (2), 19 July (KM). Normal populations in s. Illinois (VK).

Tufted Titmouse

Seen during CCNSBC at LRSHNC (4), Buffalo Woods F.P. (2 males), Black Partridge Woods F.P. (3), Wolf Road Woods, Cap Sauer's F.P.; Paddock Woods F.P. (4), McClaughry Springs F.P. (4), Zander Woods F.P. (5), Jergenson Woods F.P. & Plum Grove F.P. (5) (fide AA).

Brown Creeper

Little Black Slough N.P. (Johnson Co.) (**8 prs.**, 3 w/ yg.), June/July (fide SR); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (**4 prs.**, 2 w/ yg.), June/July (fide SR). Seen during CCNSBC at **Glenview, Paddock Woods F.P.** (fide AA).

Carolina Wren

MC: 12, Spfld, 13 June (DB). Others: Foss Park (North Chicago), 14 June (JN); Camp Sagawau (Cook Co.) (**2 nestings**), CCNSBC (JC fide AA); Buffalo Woods F.P. (Cook Co.), 5 June (CP fide AA). Good numbers — many locations (m.ob.), but down 50% in uplands (fide SR).



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Pulaski County. 10 July 1993. Photo by Cynthia McKee.

Bewick's Wren

Havana (Mason Co.), 19 June (KR).

House Wren

Nests: Homer (4 in gourds), as late as 1 August (JS). MC: 26, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 20+ (males), Lodge Park & White Heath (Piatt Co.), 20 June (RC).

Sedge Wren

Nests: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (female on), 29 June (AH). MC: 15 (males), Boone Co., 22 July (AB, MR); 12, Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 19 July (EC); 12+ (males), Palatine, 14 July (AA); 10, Orland Hills F.P. (Cook Co.), August (MCa fide AA). Others: Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.), 15-22 June (DC); Volo Bog (Lake Co.), 27 June (DJ, BS); Poplar Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (2 pr.), 14 Aug. (JMc

fide AA); Deer Grove N.P. (Cook Co.) (3 males), CCNSBC (DJ fide AA); Burnham (Cook Co.) (2 males), 6 June (WM); Monroe Co. (1), 11 July, and (4), 28 July (KM).

Marsh Wren

MC: 21, MS, 15 June (WS); 20+ (males), LCal, in June (m.ob.); 9, Chi (Egger's Woods), 9 June (WM); 8 (males), Spring L N.P. (Cook Co.), CCNSBC (MMi fide AA). Others: Lake Villa (Lake Co.) (2), 23 June (RK fide DJ); Joliet (6 males), 19 July (JM); JAAP, 17-18 June (BG); Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co.) (5 males), 31 July (JM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Nests: Utica (La Salle Co.), 16 May (DS); Nelson L Marsh N.P. (Kane Co.) (building), 17 May (DS); CNC (3—2 failed), (CW fide AA); CBG (JSt fide AA); Maple L F.P. (Cook Co.), CCNSBC (CP fide AA); Palos (10 ad., 2 nests), June (WS); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.), 21 June (JM). MC: 12 (ad.), Lodge Park/White Heath (Piatt Co.), 20 June (RC). Others: Volo Bog (ad. & yg.), 17 June (DJ); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (8 locations), 15-21 June (JM). During CCNSBC at Che-Che-Pin-Qua Woods F.P. (ad. feeding yg.), Poplar Creek F.P. (pr. feeding yg.) & Cook Co. F.P. (9 additional sites) (1-4 birds) (fide AA). Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Eastern Bluebird

MC: 25+ (including some imm.), KCP, 27 June (RC). Others: Half Day F.P. (Lake Co.) (4), 20 June (DD fide DJ). In Cook Co.: 25 pairs in 11 locations plus 1-2 birds at 7 other locations (fide AA).

Veery

Nests: Jo Daviess Co. (**4**), June/July (fide SR); Carroll Co. (**6**), June/July (fide SR); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (4 eggs), 13 June (DHa et al.). Others: Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (6 males), June/July (fide SR); Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (5), 22 June (DC); Volo Bog (Lake Co.) (6), 27 June (DJ, BS); IBSP (Camp Logan), 20 June & 4 July (JN); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (9 ad.), 15 & 21 June (JM); Palos (8), 10 June (WS); Joliet (3 ad.), 10 June (JM). During CCNSBC at Spring L N.P. (7), Spring Creek Valley F.P., CBG, Glenview Woods F.P. (pr.), Schiller Woods, Cap Sauer's F.P., Palos F.P., Tinley Creek

Woods, Paddock Woods F.P., Cherry Hill Woods F.P. & Jurgenson Woods F.P. (fide AA).

Wood Thrush

Nests: Jo Daviess Co. (45), June/July (fide SR); Carroll Co. (60), June/July (fide SR); Union Co. (40), June/July (fide SR); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (77), June/July (fide SR). MC: 19, Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.), 15 & 21 June (JM); 12, Plum Creek F.P. (Will Co.), 7 & 9 July (JM). Others: JAAP (11 locations), 31 May-18 June (BG); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (5 males), 20 June (RC); Lodge Park (Piatt Co.) (5), 10 July (RC); Spfld (5), 5 June (DB). Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Northern Mockingbird

Nests: Braidwood (4 yg. & 3 eggs), 1 June & 11 June, resp. (JM—photo). MC: 17, Flora BBS route (Clay Co.), 5 June (RC). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.), 19 June (AH); JAAP (2), 12 July (JM); Braidwood (4), May/June (JM); e. Grundy Co., 6 July (JM); s.e. La Salle Co. (3), 28 May (CMc, JMc); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co.), 6 June (WM).

Brown Thrasher

MC: 11, Spfld, 1 June (DB).

Cedar Waxwing

Nests: Ware (Union Co.) (3), early June (fide SR). Others: Boone Co. (still nesting), late July (AB, MR); Volo Bog (Lake Co.) (24), 27 June (DJ et al.).

Loggerhead Shrike

Nests: JAAP (12+, 9 w/ fledged yg.), May thru July (fide BG); University Park (on golf course—Will Co.) (3 nests), 18-19 June (AT, AD et al.); Havana (Mason Co.), 26 Apr. thru June (KR). Young: Loami (Sangamon Co.) (ad. & 1 yg.), June (DB); e. Sangamon Co. (ad. & 1 yg.), June (DB). Others: Heidecke L (Grundy Co.) (ad.), 6 July (JM); Sandwich (La Salle Co.), 30 June-1 July (DS); e. Putnam Co., 11 June (VK); s. Tazewell Co., 18 May (KR); 3 locations in Mason Co. (KR); c. Hancock Co. (pr.), 18 June (VK); Pike Co. (2 locations), 11 June & 7 July, resp. (MP); c. Cache River area (50 square miles of Union and Pulaski cos) (16 prs.), June/July (fide SR).

White-eyed Vireo

Nests: Ware (Union Co.) (12), May/July (fide SR); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (20), May/July (fide SR). Young: Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (fledgling), 30 June (JM); Plum Creek F.P. (Will Co.) (fledgling cowbird), 9 July (JM). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (male), 29 June (AH); LRSHNC (3), 22-31 July (SF); Joliet (male), 10 June-13 July (JM); Wilmington (Will Co.) (2 males), 12 July (JM); Sang.L (4), 3 June (DB); Champaign & Piatt counties (low numbers), June/July (RC). During CCNSBC at Spring Creek Valley F.P., Homewood & I&M bike path/87th (fide AA). Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Bell's Vireo

Rock Cut S.P. (Winnebago Co.), June/July (DW); Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (2 prs), 31 May-29 June (AH); JAAP (6 locations), 27 May-5 June (BG); Richton Park (Will Co.), 9 June (fide JT); e. Grundy Co. (male), 5 June (JM); s. Champaign Co., 6 June (RC); Mahomet (Champaign Co.), 19 June (RC); Sangamon Co. (4), 1 June (DB); c. Adams Co., 18 June (VK). During CCNSBC at Spring Creek Valley F.P., Barrington & Richton Park (fide AA).

SOLITARY VIREO

Iroquois Co. C.A. (pr. in courtship), 8 June (SR). See seasonal highlights in this issue.



Northern Mockingbird nest with four young. Braidwood, Will County. 1 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Nests: Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (3), May/July (fide SR); Carroll Co. (3), June/July (fide SR); Palos (2), June (WS). MC: 5 (males), Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.), 15 & 21 June (JM). Others: Lodge Park (Piatt Co.) (4 males), 20 June (RC); Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (male), 22 June (AH); COLSP, 15 June (DJ); Wadsworth, 18 June (JSt fide DJ); Spfld (3), 5 & 12 June (DB); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (very abundant), June/July (fide SR).

Warbling Vireo

MC: 20 (19 males), Chi (Wolf L), 7 June (WM); 11, JP, 1 June (HR).

Red-eyed Vireo

Nests: Joliet (building), 10 June (JM); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (2 vireo, 2 cowbird eggs), 21 June (JM). MC: 33, Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.), 15 & 21 June (JM); 31, Joliet, 10 June (JM); 17, MacArthur Woods F.P. (Lake Co.), 19 July (MMi) fide DJ). Increasing populations in c. Illinois (fide SR).

Blue-winged Warbler

Young: Plum Creek F.P. (Will Co.) (fledgling), 9 July (JM);

Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (ad. carrying food), 15 June (JM). MC: 13 (11 males), Cherry Hill Woods F.P. (Cook Co.), 5 June (CT). Others: Lovesee Road (Winnebago Co.) (male), 21 June (DC); Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (4 males), 22 June (DC); Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (male), 21 June (DC); Lyons Woods F.P. (Lake Co.) (3), 13 June (JN); Wadsworth, 18 June (JSt fide DJ); McDonald Woods F.P. (Lake Co.) (male), 14-18 June (SD fide DJ). During CCNSBC at Spring L N.P. (5 males), Spring Creek Valley F.P., Potawatomi Woods, River Trails N.C., CBG, Maple L F.P., Black Partridge Woods F.P., Cap Sauer's F.P., Camp Sagawau (4), Zander Woods F.P., Jurgenson Woods F.P. & Plum Grove F.P. (fide AA).

Golden-winged Warbler

Cherry Hill Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (male), 20 June (WS); **Urbana**, 16-28 July (*EC).

**NASHVILLE
WARBLER**

Plum Creek F.P. (Will Co.), 7 July (*JM).

Northern Parula

MC: 4, Scott Air Force Base (St. Clair Co.), 23 June (KM); 3, Spfld, 22 June (DB). Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Yellow Warbler

MC: 18 (17 males), Chi (Wolf L), 7 June (WM); 17 (males), Chi (Powderhorn), 11 June (WM); 16, Greenbelt F.P. (Lake Co.), 25 June (DJ, BS); 14, Volo Bog (Lake Co.), 27 June (DJ, BS); 12 (11 males), Burnham Prairie (Cook Co.), 6 June (WM). Others: 8, JP, 5 June (HR).

Chestnut-sided Warbler

CVHaas Road (Winnebago Co.) (male), 15 June (DC); Severson Dells (Winnebago Co.) (male), 21 June (DC); Lyons Woods F.P. (Lake Co.) (2), 13 June (JN); Wadsworth, 18 June (JS fide DJ); Thorn Creek F.P. (Will Co.) (male), 15 June (JM—photo). During CCNSBC at Spring Creek Valley F.P. (till 20 June), LRSHNC (4), Black Partridge Woods F.P., I&M bike path/87th, Cap Sauer's F.P., Wolf Road Woods, Tinley Creek Woods, Zander Woods F.P. & Cherry Hill Woods F.P. (fide AA).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Mississippi Palisades S.P. (male), 10 June (fide SR); Singing Woods (Peoria Co.), **11 June** (fide SR).

Black-throated Green Warbler

Mississippi Palisades S.P., 11 June (fide SR); Rockford, **18 June**

(ABr fide DW); Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (male), **21 June** (JM); Pine Hills (Union Co.), **20 June** (fide SR); HLCA, **29 June** (fide SR).

Yellow-throated Warbler

Mississippi Palisades S.P. (male), May/July (fide SR); Winnebago Co. (5), June/July (DW); Mahomet (male), 31 May & 13 June (RC); Lodge Park/White Heath (Piatt Co.) (male), 20 June (RC); Allerton Park (Piatt Co.) (male), 3 July (RC); Sangamon Co. (2), 9 & 19 June (DB); Sanganois C.A. (Barkhausen Unit) (5 males), in May, with (2 still singing) in mid-July (KR). Normal populations in s. Illinois (SR).

Pine Warbler

Decatur (singing), 6 June (MD).

Bay-breasted Warbler

Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (male), **13 June** (SR).

Cerulean Warbler

Nests: Tapley Woods (Jo Daviess Co.) (**10 males**, 2 nests), May/July (fide SR); Mississippi Palisades S.P. (**20-30 males**, 3 nests), May/July (fide SR); Pomona (Jackson Co.) (**100+ territorial**

Louisiana Waterthrush at Pilcher Park in Joliet, Will County. 10 June 1993. This female was defending fledged young. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



Male Chestnut-sided Warbler on territory at Thron Grove Woods Forest Preserve, Will County. 15 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



males w/ 15 nests located), May/July (GV); Trail of Tears S.F. (Union Co.) (10-15 territories w/ 6 nests located), May/July (GV). Others: Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (3 males), 21 June (DC); Severson Dells (Winnebago Co.) (male), 21 June (DC); Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (**19 males**), May/July (fide SR); Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (4 males), 22 June (DC); COLSP (male), 15 June (DJ); Des Plaines (Beck L) (male), CCNSBC (DJo fide AA); JAAP, 15 June (BG); Robinson Park (Peoria Co.) (2 males), June (fide SR); Singing Woods (Peoria Co.) (male), June (fide SR); Spfld (Gurgen's Park) (pr.— "possibly the last pair in the co"), 19 June (DB); Ware (Union Co.) (10 males — normal), May/July (fide SR); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (29 males), May/July (fide SR).

Black-and-white Warbler

Union Co. (**2 prs.**), May/July (fide SR); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (**5 males**), May/July (fide SR); Cumberland Co. (male), 15 June (BH). During CCNSBC at Spring L N.P. & Cap Sauer's F.P. (fide AA).

American Redstart

Nests: Mississippi Palisades S.P. (4), May/July (fide SR). Others: Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.) (13—11 males), CCNSBC (WS fide AA); Pomona (abundant as expected), May/July (fide SR); Cache River State N.A. (5 males), May/July (fide SR).



Hooded Warbler nest with three eggs, Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve, Will County. This was the first breeding record for Will County. See seasonal highlights for details. 30 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Prothonotary Warbler

Nests: **Lemont** (Cook Co.) (MCa fide AA); Spfld (w/ yg.), 5 June (DB); Cache River State N.A. (Johnson Co.) (36 — 28% parasitized), May/July (fide SR). Others: Robinson Woods (Cook Co.) (male), CCNSBC (RHI fide AA); Joliet (male), 10 June (JM); Spfld (3), 5 & 28 June (DB).

Worm-eating Warbler

Nests: Shawnee N.F. (Union Co.) (11), May/July (fide SR). Others: s. Coles Co. (male), 22 June (BH).

Ovenbird

Nests: Shawnee N.F. (Union Co.) (3), May/July (fide SR). Others: Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.) (**17 males**), 15 & 21 June (JM); JAAP (5 locations), 2-16 June (BG); Allerton Park (Piatt Co.), 3 July (RC); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) 17 July (RC); s. Coles Co. (4 males), 22 June (BH); Siloam Springs S.P. (Adams Co.) (3-4 males), June/July (MP); Lyons Woods F.P. (Lake Co.) (3), 13 June (JN); Kinnikinnick Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (2), 15-22 June (DC). During CCNSBC at Spring L N.P. (4 males), Black Partridge Woods F.P. (4 males) & Zander Woods F.P. (4 males) (fide AA).

Louisiana Waterthrush

Nests: Shawnee N.F. (Union Co.) (6), May/June (fide SR). Young: **Joliet** (female w/ fledgling), 10 June

(JM—photo). Others: McClaughry Springs Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (male), 27 July (CT).

Kentucky Warbler

Young: Joliet (5 in nest—no cowbirds), 10 June (JM—photo); Spfld (recently fledged), 12 June (DB). Others: Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (male), 21 June (DC); Palos Park Woods (male) & Tinley Park Woods (male), CCNSBC (WS fide AA); Joliet (2 pr.), June/July (JM); Kankakee R S.P. (Will Co.) (pr.), 12 July (JM); Lodge Park & White Heath (Piatt Co.) (male), 20 June (RC); Allerton Park (Piatt Co.) (2 males), 3 July (RC).

Common Yellowthroat

Nesting: Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (3 new fledglings), 11 July (RC). MC: 39, Monroe Co., 14 July (KM); 22, Wadsworth, 18 June (JSt fide DJ); 20, Volo Bog (Lake Co.), 27 June (DJ).

Hooded Warbler

Nests: **Thorn Creek Woods N.P.** (Will Co.—1st Co. breeding record) (3 eggs — no cowbirds), 30 June (JM—photo); Shawnee N.F. (Union Co.) (6), May/July (fide SR). Others: Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (male), 15 June (DC); Castle Rock S.P. (Ogle Co.) (male), 21 June (DC); **Zion** (Beuhla Park) (female), **31 July** (JSt fide DJ). During CCNSBC at Spring Creek Valley F.P. (3—2 males, 1 female), Wolf Road Woods (2 males), Palos Park Woods, Cap Sauer's F.P. (fide AA); McClaughry Springs Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (3), 13 June (SF et al.) but (1) 8 July (CT). Normal populations in s. Illinois (fide SR).

Yellow-breasted Chat

Nests: Keiselberg F.P. (Winnebago Co.), June/July (DW); Sang L (2 cowbird eggs), 3 June (DB); Spfld (2 eggs), 5 June (DB). MC: 11, KCP/MFWA, 27 June (RC). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (pr.), 22 June (AH); 9 Cook Co. locations (13 males), CCNSBC (fide AA).

Summer Tanager

LRSHNC, CCNSBC (PD fide AA); **Spear's Woods** (Cook Co.) (singing male), 6 June (CF fide AA); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (male), 10 July (RC); Busey Woods (Champaign Co.), 29 July (EC); Scrub Oak Prairie N.P. (Mason Co.) (3 males), 18-19 July (KR); Ozark (n.e. Johnson Co.), { 1992 banded female returned and nested in same Post Oak tree—2 tanagers and 2 cowbirds fledged from the 1993 nest } (TF). Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Scarlet Tanager

MC: 23 (16 males), Palos area, CCNSBC (m.ob. fide AA); 10 (males), Thorn Creek Woods N.P. (Will Co.), 15 & 21 June (JM); 8 (6 males), w. Will Co., June/July (JM); 7 (males), Allerton Park (Piatt Co.), 3 July



Kentucky Warbler nest with five young and NO cowbirds! Pilcher Park, Joliet, Will county, 10 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

(RC). Normal populations from study sites (fide SR).

Northern Cardinal

MC: 37, Spfld, 13 June (DB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

MC: 8, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 6 (males), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 19 June (RC, EC). Others: St. Clair Co., 16 July (KM).

Blue Grosbeak

Nests: w. Will Co. (3 yg. ready to fledge), 3 Sep. (JM); Pope Co. (3 yg. fledged), 4 July (TF). Others: w. Will Co. (different male from nest site), 8 May-11 June (JM); Romeoville (pr.), 11 June (NK); Justice (Cook Co.) (pr.), 11 June (NK); Charleston (male), 27 May-17 Aug. (BH); Flora (Clay Co.) (male), 5 June (RC); Mahomet (Champaign Co.) (male), 31 May-24 July, but (pr. feeding nearly-grown yg.—for 1st confirmed Co. breeding record), 21 Aug. (RC); e. Sangamon Co. (subad. male), 14 July (DB); Scrub Oak Prairie N.P. (Mason Co.) (4 males), 18-25 June (KR); Havana (Mason Co.) (male), during June (KR); Union (Mason Co.) (male), 26 July (KR). Continues to expand toward ne. Illinois.

Indigo Bunting

MC: 95, Monroe Co., 14 July (KM).

Dickcissel

Nests: Cypress Creek N.W.R. (Pulaski Co.) (20), May/June (fide SR). MC: 50+ pr., Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 4 July (RC); 46, Columbia BBS route (Monroe Co.), 5 June (KM). Others: Apparently in very low numbers in Cook Co. during CCNSBC (fide AA); Mason Co. ("common along almost every open roadside"), June/July (KR); central Illinois ("present in all suitable habitat"), June/July (RC).

Chipping Sparrow

MC: 22, Spfld, 13 June (DB).

Clay-colored Sparrow

Rockton (Winnebago Co.) (3), June/July (DW).

Field Sparrow

MC: 20 (including 3 imm.), Plum Creek F.P. (Will Co.), 9 July (JM).

Vesper Sparrow

MC: 36, Monticello BBS route (Piatt Co.), 12 June (RC). Others: Richton



Male Henslow's Sparrow at Goose Lake Prairie State Park, Grundy County. 5 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Nesting: Spfld (ad. carrying food), 2 Aug. (DB). MC: 25 (12 males), Paul Douglas F.P. (Cook Co.), CCNSBC (AR fide AA); 17 (males), GLPSP, 12 June (RP); 15 (males), Flora BBS route (Clay Co.), 5 June (RC); 12 (males), Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.), 30 Apr.-18 June (AH); 12 (10 males), Orland Hills F.P. (Cook Co.), CCNSBC (ASt fide AA); 9, St. Morgan BBS route (Madison Co.), 6 June (KM); 8 (6 males), Plum Grove F.P. (Cook Co.), CCNSBC (SF fide AA). Others: Mason Co. ("fairly common within habitat"), June/July (KR). Note: None at usual FGP and KCP locations (MC).



Yellow-headed Blackbird nest with four eggs. 16 May 1993. Theodore Marsh, Will County. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Park (2 locations—Cook Co.) (4 males), CCNSBC (AA, JSu); S. Chicago Hts (Cook Co.) (2 males), CCNSBC (JT fide AA); New Lenox (Will Co.) (5), 24 June (JM).

Lark Sparrow

Nests: Braidwood (Will Co.) (2 eggs), 9 June (JM). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (pr.), 27 May-18 June (AH); Braidwood (Will Co.) (2 pr.), 1 June (JM); Mason Co. ("fairly common within habitat"), June/July (KR); n.w. Sangamon Co. (3 prs.), June (DB); Columbia BBS route (Monroe Co.) (3), 5 June (KM).

Savannah Sparrow

MC: 38 (28 males), Palatine (Cook Co.), 14 July (AA); 28 (11 males), Tinley Park F.P. (Cook Co.), 13 June (JSu fide AA). Others: LCal ("once again common"), June/July (JL).

Henslow's Sparrow

Orland Hills F.P. (Cook Co.) (4—3 males), 20 June (WS); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co.) (male), 6 June (WM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (male), 4-17 July (*RC, m.ob.); Delwood (n. Pope Co.) (2 locations), 7 June (TF).

Song Sparrow

MC: 60, Monroe Co., 27 July (KM); 38, New Lenox BBS route (Will/Du Page counties), 24 June (JM); 30, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 22 (16 males), Burnham Prairie (Cook Co.), 6 June (WM).

Swamp Sparrow

Nesting: Green River C.A. (Lee Co.) (ad. feeding yg.), 13 June (DS). MC: 35 (30 males), Spring L N.P. (Cook Co.), CCNSBC (MMi fide AA); 13, Wadsworth, 18 June (JSt

fide DJ); 6 (males), Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co.), 31 July (JM). Others: LCal (3 prs.), June/July (JL); Shirland (Winnebago Co.) (4), 26 June (DW); Joliet & Lockport (3 males), June/July (JM).

Bobolink

MC: 76 (55 males), Tinley Park F.P. (Cook Co.), CCNSBC (JSu fide AA); 50+ (45 males), Orland Hills F.P. (Cook Co.), 20 June (WS); 45 (15+ males), Paul Douglas F.P. (Cook Co.), CCNSBC (AR, AF fide AA); 44 (including many young), Somonauk (De Kalb Co.), 31 July (DS). Others: Volo Bog (Lake Co.) (2 pr.), 27 June (DJ et al.); LCal (n. end) (male), 19-27 June (WM); s.e.

fide DW); Garden Prairie Slough (Boone Co.) (5 males, 3 females), thru 11 July (AB, MR); Wadsworth (7-9 prs. nesting), July (SH); Nippersink Marsh Road (Lake Co.), (4 yg.), 27 June (BS fide DJ); Palatine (9+—6 males, 2 imm.), early June (CW, m.ob.); Schaumburg (8+ ad.—5 males, + fledglings), early June (AA); LCal (14 = 9 males, 2 females, & 3 yg.), 19 June (WM); Chi (Egger's Woods) (8 = 4 males & 4 females), 9 June (WM); Hoffman Estates (3 males), 8 June (JMe, DHe fide AA); .

Red-winged Blackbird

Nests: 20 July (3 eggs), Joliet (JM).



Ringed Turtle-Dove at nest with two young, Will County. The Joliet area supports a large feral population of this exotic species. 23 June 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Livingston Co. (4), 10 June (VK); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (3 prs. w/ fledglings), 4-17 July (RC); Jordan Creek Preserve (Vermilion Co.) (successful nests) (MC); c. Hancock Co., 18 June (VK).

Eastern Meadowlark

MC: **150+** (including imm.), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.), 25 July (RC); 79, Flora BBS route (Clay Co.), 5 June (RC); 62, Monroe Co., 14 July (KM); 30+, GLPSP, 5 June (JM).

Western Meadowlark

n.w. Livingston Co. (14), 11 June (VK); s.e. Livingston Co. (4), 10 June (VK); n. Champaign Co., 6-7 June (RC, EC); Decatur (singing), 14 July (MD); s.w. Sangamon Co. (singing), 9 July (DB); Mason Co. (7 males), April/July (KR); c. Hancock Co. (3), 18 June (VK); c. Adams Co. (4), 8 June (VK); Monroe Co., 17-19 July (KM).

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Nests: **Joliet** (4 eggs—1st Co. breeding record), 16 May (JM—photo). Others: Shirland (Winnebago Co.) (imm.), 17 July (LJo

Exotic

Ringed Turtle-Dove

Nests: Joliet (2 yg.), 23 June (JM—photo). Others: Lockport (Will Co.) (3), 13, July (JM); Joliet (many), June/July (JM).

Orchard Oriole

Nests: Poplar Grove (Boone Co.) (3 yg.), June (AB, MR); Spfld (female feeding yg.), 10 June (DB); Fairmount (yg. in nest), 10 July (JS). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Co.) (feeding yg.), 18 June (AH); McDonald Woods F.P. (Lake Co.) (ad. male), 20 June (JN); Half Day F.P. (male), 25 June (DJ). During CCNSBC at CBG (pr.), Poplar Creek F.P. (male), LRSHNC (4 pr.), Busse Woods F.P. (male), Cherry Hill Woods F.P. (male), Tinley Creek Woods (male), Orland Hills F.P. (male), Saganashkee Slough (2) & LCal (male) (fide AA).

House Finch

MC: 151 (66 males on territory), Evanston, 8 May (EW); 50+ (daily), Poplar Grove (Boone Co.), June/July (AB); 50 (at feeders), Homer (Vermilion Co.), June/July (JS). Others: Champaign-Urbana: "...seems to outnumber House Sparrows in some neighborhoods." (RC).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

s.e. Knox Co. (4), 18 June (VK).

Again, many thanks to all contributors and reporters who made this compilation possible. Some records not included in this report are scheduled for review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee and may be included in an addenda of a future report. Contributors should send their field notes to the appropriate seasonal editor according to the following schedule:

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